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WONDERFUL MUSEUM Vol. I.

KIRBY'S

WONDERFUL

AND

ECCENTRIC MUSEUM;

OR,

MAGAZINE

OF

REMARKABLE CHARACTERS.

INCLUDING ALL THE

CURIOSITIES OF NATURE AND ART,

FROM THE REMOTEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME,

Drawn from every authentic Source.

ILLUSTRATED WITH

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FOUR ENGRAVINGS.

CHIEFLY TAKEN FROM RARE AND CURIOUS PRINTS
OR ORIGINAL DRAWINGS.

SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

R. S. KIRBY, LONDON HOUSE YARD, ST. PAUL'S.

1820.

PREFACE.

THE Public are respectfully informed, that the present publication of KIRBY's WONDERFUL MUSEUM, is undertaken in consequence of new arrangements and connections, that will effectually secure its permanence, without let or hindrance, upon the most liberal and extensive scale, as long as the annals of history, the discoveries of art and ingenuity, and the efforts of labour and learning shall be capable of administering to the entertainment or information of the human intellect:—That taste for inquiring into all the arcana, perfections, and even the eccentricities, of art and nature, which, from various causes, seem growing with our growth, and strengthening with our strength, will most probably find its true and genuine aliment in the panacea, which it shall be our duty and pleasure to present to our Readers, as much as possible adapted to this diversity of taste, inclination, and propensity. That which is truly curious positively, or relatively wonderful, will, at all times, be our study to procure and collect from the inexhaustible regions of animate or inanimate nature; from the records of history, or the improvements of art.—

Nor

Nor will our efforts be confined to the mere arrangement of what has been before written by others. To a very competent share of Original and Eccentric Biography, which is intended to constitute a distinguishing feature in KIRBY'S WONDERFUL MUSEUM; it is intended, from time to time, to present the Reader with Translations from the most scarce and valuable Originals in the modern languages, with Extracts from the same, without *waiting*, as many of our competitors have been compelled to do, for the translation and publication of the whole of such works in English. And as all our measures are taken for realizing the professions we have now made to the ingenious inquirers into the wonders and curiosities of Art and Nature; we are probably justified in presuming, to appropriate that ample share in public patronage, which will crown our labours, and set every degree of rivalship at that distance it must ever keep, from a more correct taste, superior exertions, industry, and ability.

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SIR JOHN DINELY BART.

A Celebrated Writer of Epistles to the Ladies.

AN AUTHENTIC AND ENTERTAINING

ACCOUNT

OF THE CELEBRATED

SIR JOHN DINELY, BART.

OF WINDSOR.

A NUMBER of persons forming their judgment from various circumstances, which they have heard of this truly eccentric character, have imagined that this gentleman's title to the distinction of knighthood, is no better founded than those of the late Sir Jeffery Dunstan, or Sir J. Harper; but this is a mistake of the grossest kind, as we shall shew in the course of this sketch. Sir John Dinely is actually of a very ancient and honourable family, the particulars of which we reserve till we have recorded the more remarkable history of his later years. Sir John having run through his portion of the family entailments, for nearly twenty years past, at least as far as reports and advertisements in the papers will vouch, has been a most chivalrous knight among the ladies. He has not only been incessantly advertising for a wife since the period just mentioned; but even within the last five years, since he was made one of the poor Knights of Windsor, he has never ceased soliciting the hand of some favourite fair, blessed with fortune as well as beauty. Report says, that Sir John once obtained a wife, in consequence of one of his newspaper notices; but of the events attached to this acquisition, we shall be silent here.

In appearance, viz. in dress, Sir John is no changeling, for nearly twenty years past he has been the faithful resem-

blance of his likeness, as it appears in this work. It was engraved from a portrait taken by an ingenious artist.

Since Sir John's residence at Windsor, as one of the poor knights, he has no settled residence in town: but when he receives his quarterage or fees, we are informed he posts away to London, and makes his appearance at some public place, under the flattering idea that some lady of fortune may fall in love, either with his person or his title.—And hence, in advertising for a wife, the principal object which he professes to have in view, is to be enabled with that fortune to prosecute his suit for the recovery of his vast estates. Whether Sir John has any legal pretensions; or why he was not able to keep quiet possession of those estates, is not apparent from any account he has given.

Sir John, as we are told, was for a number of years past, such a scrupulous martyr to Platonic gallantry, that to shew the ladies that he lived quite alone, disengaged and unconnected, he even chose to dispense with the attendance of a servant-maid. Accordingly, in pursuance of that disposition, since he has been a poor knight, he is still as solitary as before, being entirely without companion or domestic. Partly through this partial seclusion when at home, Sir John is uncommonly loquacious when abroad.—His conversation also, is overcharged with egotisms, and such a mixture of repartee and evasion, as to excite doubts in the minds of superficial observers, as to the reality of his character or abilities. With respect to his exterior, it is really laughable to observe him when he is known to be going to some public place to exhibit his person. He is then decked out in his second-hand finery, viz. a velvet embroidered waistcoat, satin breeches, silk stockings, and a full bottomed wig. On these occasions, not a little inflated with family pride, he seems to imagine himself as great as any lordling: but on the day following, he may be seen slowly pacing from the chandler's shop near his country retreat, with a penny loaf in one pocket; a morsel

sel of butter, a quartern of sugar, and a three farthing candle in the other. Sir John is still in the habit of receiving epistles in answer to his advertisements, and several whimsical interviews, and ludicrous adventures have occurred in consequence. He has more than once paid his devoirs to one of his own sex dressed as a fine lady. At other times, when he has expected to see his fair enamorato at a window, he has been rudely saluted with the contents of the Jordan.—But none of these things have been able to allay the fervors of his passion, as may be seen by perusing the *Reading Mercury*, only of a few weeks past, where his recent advertisements for a wife, appear dictated with the same warmth, and under the very same extravagant ideas which distinguished Sir John, at a period when the heyday of his blood must have beaten considerably higher than at present.

Sir John, we are told, once practised physic, but in many respects, the *Medice Curate ipsum* could never be retorted with more propriety, than upon him. Books of the Medicinal art, however, are still purchased by Sir John, when he attends sales, &c. It is still a habit with him, to attend twice or thrice a year at Vauxhall and the Theatres, according to appointment, by advertisement in the most fashionable daily papers. At Vauxhall, he parades the most conspicuous parts, and at the Theatre, he is to be found in the front row of the pit; and whenever it is known that he is to be there, the house, especially by the females, is sure to be well attended. When in town, Sir John always makes it a point to attend the different auctions, to which he is particularly attached; but if he buys a catalogue, he is always sure to make a purchase to the value of a shilling to cover the expense. Lord Fitzwilliam, it is said, is among the number of Sir John's benefactors, as he makes him an allowance of ten pounds per annum. Of late, Sir John has added a piece of stay-tape to his wig,

which attaches on the other side, passing under his chin; from this circumstance, some persons might infer that he is rather chop-fallen; an inference by no means fair, if we still consider the gay complexion of his advertisements and addresses to the ladies.

We have before spoken of the dignity of Sir John's descent; the following particulars are well attested.—The family of Dinely continued to flourish in great repute, in the county of Worcester, till the present century, when it expired at Charlton, in the person of Sir Edward Dinely, Knt. sometime Justice of Peace and Deputy-Lieutenant for this County; who, by Frances his wife, daughter of Lewis Watson, Lord Rockingham, left an only surviving daughter, Eleanor, his heir; who was married to Edward Goodyere, of Burghope, in Herefordshire, Esq.; which Edward was created a Baronet, 5th December, 1707, sixth of Anne, and was member in several parliaments for the Borough of Evesham, and sometime Knight of the Shire for the County of Hereford. He died at a great age, 29th March, 1739, and was succeeded by Sir John Dinely Goodyere, Bart. his eldest son; which Sir John Dinely Goodyere, of Charlton, Bart. assumed the name of Dinely, in respect of the large estate he inherits from his mother. He was the last of the family who enjoyed it, for having lived upon bad terms with his younger brother, Samuel Dinely Goodyere, Captain of the Ruby man of war, and threatening to disinherit him in favor of his sister's son, John Foote, of Truro, in Cornwall, Esq.; it so alarmed and disgusted the said Samuel Goodyere, that he came to the bloody resolution of murdering his brother, which he executed on the 17th of January, 1741.

John Foote, Esq. son of Eleanor, sister to Sir John, and elder brother to Samuel Foote, Esq. the celebrated comedian, was heir to his uncle, and assumed the name of Dinely; but Dame Mary Dinely Goodyere, the widow of Sir

Sir John, surviving her husband, and holding the Charlton estate in dower, remarried with William Rayner, a painter, in White Friars, London, who being thus in possession, partly by marriage, and partly by purchase from Mr. John Foote Dinely, became seized of the whole in fee, and sold Charlton to Joseph Biddle, of Eversham, Esq.; whose executors sold it in 1774 to Messrs. Beesley, Socket, Lilly, and Bevington, of Worcester, in partnership, who, or their representatives, were the present possessors in 1779.

A friend at Bristol, who knew the mortal antipathy of these brothers, had invited them both to dinner, in hopes of reconciling them, and they parted in the evening in seeming friendship; but the Captain placed some of his crew in the street near College Green, Bristol, with orders to seize his brother, and assisted in hurrying him on board his ship.

The account of the unhappy fate of Sir John's father, contained in the trial to which we have alluded, is so remarkable, that we shall lay the following particulars before our readers.

At the sessions held before the worshipful the mayor of the city of Bristol, and Michael Foster, Esq. recorder, and other of his Majesty's justices of the peace for the said city, March 26, 1741, Samuel Goodyere, late commander of his Majesty's ship Ruby, was indicted for aiding, assisting, and abetting, the murder of Sir John Dinely Goodyere, Bart.

At the same time, Matthew Mahony and Charles White, were separately indicted for the actual murder of the said Sir John Dinely Goodyere, Bart.

Mr. Smith, an attorney at law, in College Green, Bristol, deposed, that the Sunday before this murder was committed, the deceased, by the deponent's invitation, was to dine at his house the Saturday following, of which the prisoner being apprized came into the neighbourhood, and sent for this deponent, and earnestly interceded with him to admit him into the company of his brother, the Baronet, under the pretence,

as

as the prisoner said, to accommodate and reconcile their differences in an amicable manner.

The prisoner being at College Green coffee-house, Mr. Smith went to him, and was greatly pleased with the proposals of the prisoner, and the hopes of all disputes between them settled; he, without the least hesitation, introduced the prisoner into the company of his brother, the deceased; and the prisoner behaved so well, that he and the deceased seemed to be as good friends as ever; and just as the deceased was about to depart, he took leave of the Baronet in the most affectionate manner imaginable. It was then dark, and about six o'clock in the evening.

Mr. Roberts, who kept the White Hart on College Green, opposite to Mr. Smith's house, deposed, that the prisoner came to his house early in the morning, the day before the murder was committed, and ordered him to get a dinner ready for six men, who were to dine there that day.

Mahony was not one of the six that dined, but the company talked much about one Mahony; he was a man well known to Roberts, and had been often at his house: the people that dined there were dressed like seamen, and Roberts took them for Captain Goodyere's men, and that the Captain had a mind to treat them at his house. They dined in the balcony up one pair of stairs towards the Green, and in the afternoon, after dinner was over, Goodyere sent word to Roberts to make tea for the six men, which greatly surprised him, it being very uncommon drink for jack tars.—They all went away of a sudden, and Roberts bid them welcome without going out of doors.

Charles Bryant being called upon by the Court, deposed, that he was one of the six men hired by Captain Goodyere, to seize the deceased, and forcibly to run him aboard the Ruby man of war, then lying in King's Road. They met by the prisoner's directions, at the White Hart, on College Green, where a handsome dinner was provided. They were

placed in the balcony to receive a signal, and obey the word of command, without giving the least suspicion to the people of the house. About six o'clock in the evening the signal was given, and they left the White Hart, and overtook the deceased just before he came to College Green coffee-house, where Bryant, and others, seized him at the word of command of the prisoner. They then rushed on the deceased, and dragged him along to the Rope Walk, where was a gang of twelve more of them, who were ready to assist according to the prisoner's instructions.—The deceased was hurried towards the Hot Wells, where a boat was waiting purposely to receive him.

The prisoner was with them all the while, directing, aiding, and assisting all the time, and when the deceased cried out, murder! murder! I am Sir John Dinely Goodyere; the prisoner stopped the deceased's mouth with his cloak, so that the people not knowing his name, only asked what was the matter? The answer the prisoner and the ruffians gave was, that he, the deceased, was a thief and a murderer, and had made his escape from the ship, and that they were going to take him aboard to secure him, in order for his trial; the prisoner still stopping the deceased's mouth, to prevent his crying out.

When the deceased got into the boat he had a little more liberty than before, and he made use of it to speak to the prisoner to this effect:—"Brother, I know you have an intention to murder me: I beg that if you are resolved to do it, that you would do it here, and not give yourself the trouble of taking me down to your ship." To which the prisoner replied, "No, brother, I am going to prevent your rotting upon land; but, however, I would have you make your peace with God this night;" and so without more ado, the prisoner hurried the deceased aboard the ship.

When the deceased was put on board the Ruby, he cried out loudly for help, and made a great noise; but the prisoner took

took the precaution to tell the crew, "That they need not mind his noise, because he was mad; and that he had brought him on board, on purpose to prevent his making away with himself." They then conveyed him to the purser's cabin, and all of them, except Mahony and White, were ordered ashore, with directions to conceal themselves, and keep out of the way of inquiry.

Bryant further deposed, that he and five more were hired by the prisoner, at a guinea a head, to bring the deceased on board; that neither of them belonged to the Ruby, but to the Vernon schooner.

Mr. Berry, the first lieutenant of the prisoner's ship, deposed, that being on deck he saw the deceased brought on board late in the evening on the 23d of January last. The deceased was immediately carried into the purser's cabin, and there kept till five o'clock in the morning. That the prisoners Goodyere, White, and Mahony were with the deceased. That he saw the prisoners and deceased through a crevice in a cabin adjoining to the purser's cabin. That the deponent, and the cooper of the ship, and his wife, were together, and by means of the crevice saw the whole transaction. The agreement between Goodyere, White, and Mahony was, that Mahony should have £200; White, £150, and what money the deceased had in his pockets, and his gold watch. After the agreement was concluded on, Mahony and White went about their bloody work, the prisoner Goodyere standing centry with his drawn sword in one hand, and a pistol in the other, to kill the first person that should make any opposition to what they were about.

The first thing they did, they took a handkerchief out of the deceased's pocket; White held his hand, while Mahony put it about his neck, and then each of them pulled as hard as he could, in order to strangle the deceased at once; but Sir John making a desperate struggle, the prisoners could not effect it, so as to prevent his crying out "murder!

" murder! for God's sake don't kill me, take all I have, but save my life: dear brother! what! must I die? Help! help! murder!" &c. To prevent any further noise, the prisoner Goodyere ordered Mahony to take a cord he had laid ready. The prisoner Mahony then slipped off the handkerchief, and put the cord about the deceased's neck, which cord had a noose at the end: then Mahony holding the cord in one hand, thrust the other in the deceased's throat, and his knee against his stomach. In the mean while White held the deceased's hands, and took out of his pockets eight guineas and a gold watch. Then White came directly to the prisoner Goodyere, and acquainted him with what was done, and shewed him his brother's watch and money. The prisoner then asked Mahony and White, whether the job was quite completed? they answered, Yes. Then the prisoner gave Mahony and White what money he had about him, and bid them get ashore directly, that they might the more easily make their escape before day-light came on.

Mr. Jones, the cooper of the ship, and his wife, confirmed the evidence of the lieutenant; and Mr. Ford deposed, that he had Mahony under cure for the foul disease for three weeks, when he told him he had a private job to do for Captain Goodyere, for which he was to have £200, and then he would reward him handsomely for his trouble.

The prisoner, by way of defence, said, it was a very hard case, and a great hardship on an innocent man, who, because his brother had been killed, must, right or wrong, be the murderer. He was innocent of the fact, and had no hand in the murder laid to his charge. His brother was a lunatic, and in a fit of the phrenzy, strangled himself, which he said he could prove by his witnesses; and calling one Sarah Gettings, she swore the deceased was mad by turns, and very often attempted to make away with himself. One Ann Gettings swore, that the deceased had been a long time

subject to strange whims and phrenzies, and often talked of shooting, drowning, and strangling himself.

An Account of the Discovery of this horrid Murder.

Mr. Smith, (the gentleman at whose house Sir John Dinely Goodyere, and his brother Captain Goodyere, spent a sociable hour together the day before) accidentally heard that evening, that a person who had the appearance of a gentleman, was hurried in a very violent manner over College Green, and that a gentleman, who by the description of him, answered to the person of the captain, assisted; and Mr. Smith knowing the ship was to sail the first fair wind, and remembering that they went out of the house nearly together, it came directly into his head, that the captain had took him on board, with intent to destroy him when he came upon the high seas. This suspicion being strengthened by other circumstances, made so deep an impression on his mind, that early in the morning he applied himself to Henry Coombe, Esq. the mayor, for an officer to go and search the ship, before she was sailed out of the liberty of the city, which reaches ten or fifteen miles down the river. The officer the mayor thought fit to send was the water bailiff, with proper assistance, and full orders to search the ship for Sir John Dinely Goodyere, Bart. The officer obeyed his orders; and coming to the ship, the cooper, his wife, and lieutenant Berry, acquainted him, that they had been just consulting about the affair, and discovered to him what they knew of the whole matter, the captain being then safe in his cabin. The water bailiff sent immediately this account to the city magistrates, who thought proper to reinforce him with a strong guard to secure the captain; but before the guard came, the cooper and lieutenant had done the business.

A letter was sent, wrote with Captain Goodyere's own hand, and directed to Mr. Jarit Smith, attorney at law,

on

on College Green, Bristol, purporting, that to his (the captain's) great surprise, he had discovered that his brother, Sir John, had been murdered by two ruffians, and that the villains suspected, had made their escape. This confirmed Mr. Smith in his suspicions, and the captain being seized, as before mentioned, was brought before the mayor at the town-hall, where many of the aldermen and magistrates of the city were also assembled.

On the death of Sir Edward (the father of these unhappy brothers), and of Mr. Dinely, Sir John, to whom the title of Baronet devolved in right of his father, had a very pretty estate, when his father's, and that for which he changed his name were both joined. It is said, that he was possessed, in the counties of Hereford and Worcestershire, of upwards of 4000*l.* per annum; but we are assured his income was a good 3000*l.* Sir John, about the age of twenty-three, married a young lady, the daughter of a merchant of that city, who gave her a fortune of upwards of 20,000*l.*

But it so happened, some years after, through domestic jars in Sir John's family, that Sir Robert Jasen, a neighbouring Baronet, who came pretty frequently to visit Sir John, was suspected of familiarity with Lady Dinely.—Sir John's suspicions were raised to such a degree, that he forbid Sir Robert his house. The consequence of this was, that Sir John brought an action in the Court of Common Pleas, at Westminster, for criminal conversation, and laid his damages at 2000*l.* The jury gave Sir John, 500*l.* damages.

Sir John, after this, indicted his lady for a conspiracy to take away his life; and by the evidence of a servant-maid, the lady was found guilty, and committed to the King's Bench prison, for twelve months, and to pay a small fine. While she remained in prison, he petitioned for a divorce; but she being assisted with money by Captain

Goodyere and other friends, opposed it so strongly, that the House of Lords were of opinion that it could not be granted; and so dismissed the petition.

The Captain's view in furnishing the distressed lady with money, as he himself told Sir John, was, that he should not marry a young woman, and so beget an heir to his estate; and this was one of the principal motives that induced Sir John to leave the greatest part of his estate to his sister's sons.

Thus the principal occasion of this horrid and barbarous murder, was the injury Captain Goodyere apprehended Sir John had done him, in cutting off the entail of his estate except 600*l.* per annum, which he could not meddle with, in order to settle it on his sister's sons.

By the death of Sir John, an estate of 400*l.* per annum, devolved to the Lady Dinely, his widow, not as a jointure, but as an estate of her own; which Sir John, while living, kept in his own hands.

Captain Goodyere, Mahony and White, received sentence of death, and they were accordingly executed, and hung in chains to the north of the Hot Wells, in sight of the place where the ship lay when the murder was committed.

But, to return to the eccentric relative of these unfortunate men, Sir John, who has no ideas of slaughter, excepting that of ladies' hearts; it is probable he will still persist in discharging the shafts of Cupid, as long as he continues to breathe. His application to the ladies of Great Britain, it should be observed, are addressed both to *young* and *old*. Those who object to his age, he treats as envious revilers; and as to their saying that he is upwards of 59 years of age, referring to his portrait, or his person, he challenges them to believe it *if they* can.

Sir John Dinely lives at Windsor, in one of the habitations appropriated to reduced gentlemen of his description;

tion; and in one of the many advertisements imputed to him, he is supposed to expect that the numerous candidates for his hand, would present themselves individually, or in a body before his residence. His fortune (if he could recover it) he estimates at 300,000*l.* The woe-begone widow, whose weeds, he conceives, are insupportable, he invites to his arms, to be relieved of her burden; as well as the blooming miss of sixteen, to whom he supposes the restrictions of a boarding-school are quite intolerable; and these he has addressed in printed documents that bear his own warrant and signature; and in which he enumerates, like a judicious dealer, the sums the ladies must possess, who are candidates for his hand.

Here it is remarkable, that the younger they are, the less property is required; while with age and widowhood, the demands of Sir John increase in due proportion; and though he modestly asserts, that few ladies will be eligible with less than a thousand a year, he is persuaded that these sums are mere trifles, compared with his *high birth* and *noble descent,* for the proof of which, he is fond of referring every inquirer to Nash's History of Worcestershire.—To conclude, that our Readers may not suppose that we are trifling with their credulity, in the delineation of this extraordinary character, and as our limits will not admit of more, we shall content ourselves with reprinting two only, of Sir John's fruitless advertisements *for a wife;* though notwithstanding the reluctance of the ladies, we are well warranted in saying of this Knight,

"Take him for all in all,
"They ne'er may look upon his like again."

FOR A WIFE.

As the prospect of my marriage has much increased lately, I am determined to take the best means to discover the lady most liberal in her esteem, by giving her fourteen

days more to make her quickest steps towards matrimony, from the date of this paper until eleven o'clock the next morning; and, as the contest evidently will be superb, honourable, sacred, and lawfully affectionate, pray do not let false delicacy interrupt you in this divine race for my eternal love, and an infant Baronet. For 'tis evident I'm sufficiently young enough for you.

An eminent attorney here is lately returned from a view of my very superb gates before my capital house, built in the form of the Queen's-house. I have ordered him, or the next eminent attorney here, who can satisfy you of my possession in my estate, and every desirable particular concerning it, to make you the most liberal settlement you can desire, to the vast extent of 300,000*l*. Where is your dutiful parents, brothers, or sisters, that has handed you to my open arms? Venus indeed with her bow and quiver did clasp me in her arms at the late masquerade; but give me the charming Venus who is liberal enough to name the time and place for our marriage, as I am so much at your Ladyship's command.

WINDSOR CASTLE, JOHN DINELY.
June 9th, 1801.

For your rank above half the kingdom fly,
What's two hundred pounds with an amorous eye?
I'm fam'd for looks of good-nature and sense;—
Detect then all envy's impertinence.
Your first step with my fair plan must agree,
By sending your qualifi'd line to me,
A beautiful page shall carefully hold
Your Ladyship's train surrounded with gold!

An

An Advertisement for a Wife in the Reading Mercury, May 24, 1802.

Miss in her Teens,—let not this sacred offer escape your eye. I now call all qualified ladies, marriageable, to chocolate at my house every day at your own hour.—With tears in my eyes, I must tell you that sound reason commands me to give you but one month's notice before I part with my chance of an infant Baronet for ever: for you may readily hear that three widows and old maids, all aged above fifty, near my door, are now pulling caps for me. Pray, my young charmers, give me a fair hearing; do not let your avaricious guardians unjustly fright you with a false account of a forfeiture, but let the great Sewel and Rivet's opinions convince you to the contrary; and that I am now in legal possession of these estates, and with the spirit of an heroine command my three hundred thousand pounds, and rank above half the ladies in our imperial kingdom. By your Ladyship's directing a favourable line to me, Sir John Dinely, Baronet, at my house, in Windsor Castle, your attorney will satisfy you, that if I live but a month, eleven thousand pounds a year will be your Ladyship's for ever.

INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF THE EARTHQUAKE AT LISBON; BY AN EYE-WITNESS.

Our Readers will probably find, that, compared with the following, the common run of accounts given of these calamities is as different from the thing itself as even *report* and *reality*, *mere description* and *ocular demonstration*. In many of these, we are only made acquainted with the outlines, the external movements of the scenery; but, in the following,

following, the Reader sees an intelligent being taking part in, and witnessing the most intimate scenes of these internal convulsions. It is the Great Earthquake at Lisbon in 1755 which is here described, in a Letter from a Gentleman to his Friend in London.

Lisbon,

" DEAR SIR, *Nov.* 13, 1755.

As no instance of the kind hath happened in these parts of the world for some ages, I herewith send you an account of one of the most dreadful catastrophes recorded in history, the veracity of which you may entirely depend on, as I shared so great a part in it myself.

There never was a finer morning seen than the first of November, the sun shone out in its full lustre; the whole face of the sky was perfectly serene and clear; and not the least signal or warning of that approaching event, which has made this once flourishing, opulent, and populous city a scene of the utmost horror and desolation, except only such as served to alarm, but scarcely left a moment's time to fly from the general destruction.

It was on the morning of this fatal day, between the hours of nine and ten, that I was sat down in my apartment, just finishing a letter, when the papers and table I was writing on began to tremble with a gentle motion; which rather surprised me, as I could not perceive a breath of wind stirring; whilst I was reflecting with myself what this could be owing to, but without having the least apprehension of the real cause, the whole house began to shake from the very foundation; which at first I imputed to the rattling of several coaches in the main street, which usually passed that way, at this time, from Belem to the Palace; but, on hearkening more attentively, I was soon undeceived, as I found it was owing to a strange frightful kind of noise under ground, resembling the hollow distant rumbling of thunder; all this passed in less than a minute, and I must confess

confess I now began to be alarmed, as it naturally occurred to me, that this noise might possibly be the forerunner of an earthquake.

Upon this I threw down my pen, and started upon my feet, remaining a moment in suspense, whether I should stay in the apartment, or run into the street, as the danger in both places seemed equal; but in a moment I was roused from my dream, being instantly stunned with a most horrid crash, as if every edifice in the city had tumbled down at once. The house I was in, shook with such violence, that the upper stories immediately fell, and though my apartment (which was the first floor) did not then share the same fate, yet every thing was thrown out of its place in such a manner, that it was with no small difficulty I kept my feet, and expected nothing less than to be soon crushed to death, as the walls continued rocking to and fro in the frightfullest manner, opening in several places; large stones falling down on every side from the cracks; and the ends of most of the rafters starting out from the roof. To add to this terrifying scene, the sky, in a moment, became so gloomy, that I could now distinguish no particular object; it was an Ægyptian Darkness indeed, such as might be felt; owing, no doubt, to the prodigious clouds of dust and lime, raised from so violent a concussion, and as some reported, to sulphureous exhalations, but this I cannot affirm; however, it is certain, I found myself almost choaked for near ten minutes.

As soon as the gloom began to disperse, and the violence of the shock seemed pretty much abated, the first object I perceived in the room, was a woman sitting on the floor, with an infant in her arms, all covered with dust; pale, and trembling; I asked her how she got hither: but her consternation was so great that she could give me no account of her escape; I suppose

that when the tremor first began, she ran out of her own house, and finding herself in such imminent danger from the falling stones, retired into the door of mine, which was almost contiguous to her's, for shelter, and when the shock increased, which filled the door with dust and rubbish, ran up stairs into my apartment, which was then open: be it as it might, this was no time for curiosity. I remember the poor creature asked me, in the utmost agony, if I did not think that the world was at an end; at the same time she complained of being choaked, and begged, for God's sake, I would procure her a little drink; upon this I went to a closet where I kept a large jar with water (which you know is sometimes a pretty scarce commodity in Lisbon), but finding it broken in pieces, I told her she must not now think of quenching her thirst, but saving her life, as the house was just falling on our heads, and if a second shock came, would certainly bury us both; I bade her take hold of my arm, and that I would endeavour to bring her into some place of security.

I shall always look upon it as a particular Providence, that I happened on this occasion to be undressed, for had I dressed myself, as I proposed, when I got out of bed, in order to breakfast with a friend, I should in all probability, have run into the street, at the beginning of the shock, as the rest of the people in the house did, and consequently have had my brains dashed out, as every one of them had; however, the imminent danger I was in, did not hinder me from considering that my present dress, only a gown and slippers, would render my getting over the ruins almost impracticable: I had, therefore, still presence of mind enough left, to put on a pair of shoes and a coat, the first that came in my way, which was every thing I saved, and in this dress I hurried down stairs, the woman with me, hold-

ing by my arm, and made directly to the end of the street which opens to the Tagus; but finding the passage this way entirely blocked up with the fallen houses, to the height of their second stories, I turned back to the other end which led into the main street, (the common thoroughfare to the palace), and having helped the woman over a vast heap of ruins, with no small hazard to my own life; just as we were going into this street, as there was one part I could not well climb over without the assistance of my hands, as well as feet, I desired her to let go her hold, which she did, remaining two or three feet behind me, at which instant there fell a vast stone from a tottering wall, and crushed both her and the child in pieces; so dismal a spectacle at any other time would have affected me in the highest degree, but the dread I was in of sharing the same fate myself, and the many instances of the same kind which presented themselves all around, were too shocking to make me dwell a moment on this single object.

I had now a long narrow street to pass, with the houses on each side four or five stories high, all very old, the greater part already thrown down, or continually falling, and threatening the passengers with inevitable death at every step, numbers of whom lay killed before me, or what I thought far more deplorable—so bruised and wounded that they could not stir to help themselves. For my own part, as destruction appeared to me unavoidable, I only wished I might be made an end of at once, and not have my limbs broken, in which case, I could expect nothing else but to be left upon the spot, lingering in misery, like these poor unhappy wretches, without receiving the least succour from any one.

I, however, proceeded on as fast as I conveniently could, though with the utmost caution, and having at length got clear of this horrid passage, I found myself

safe and unhurt in the large open space before St. Paul's church, which had been thrown down a few minutes before, and buried a great part of the congregation, that was generally pretty numerous, this being reckoned one of the most populous parishes in Lisbon. Here I stood some time, considering what I should do, and not thinking myself safe in this situation, I came to the resolution of climbing over the ruins of the west end of the church, in order to get to the river side, that I might be removed, as far as possible, from the tottering houses, in case of a second shock.

This, with some difficulty, I accomplished, and here I found a prodigious concourse of people, of both sexes, and of all ranks and conditions, among whom I observed some of the principal canons of the Patriarchal church, in their purple robes and rochets, as these all go in the habit of bishops; several priests, who had run from the altars in their sacerdotal vestments in the midst of their celebrating mass; ladies half dressed, some without shoes; all these, whom their mutual dangers had here assembled as to a place of safety, were on their knees at prayers, with the terrors of death in their countenances, every one striking on his breast, and crying out, incessantly, *Miserecordia meu Dios.*

In the midst of our devotions, the second great shock came on, little less violent than the first, and completed the ruin of those buildings which had been already much shattered. The consternation now became so universal, that the shrieks and cries of *Miserecordia* could be distinctly heard from the top of St. Catherine's hill, at a considerable distance off, whither a vast number of people had likewise retreated; at the same time we could hear the fall of the parish church there, whereby many persons were killed on the spot, and others mortally wounded. You may judge of the force of this shock,

shock, when I inform you it was so violent, that I could scarce keep on my knees, but it was attended with some circumstances still more dreadful than the former.

(To be continued.)

OF THE EGYPTIAN MIRAGE; OR, DECEPTION OF THE SIGHT.

All the translators of M. Denon, it is observable, speak of this delusion as a real phenomenon. Sir Robert Wilson also, in his account of the British campaign in Egypt, mentions the inconveniencies resulting from the supposition indulged by the troops that they were approaching water at a time when nearly famishing with thirst, they were actually labouring under the most complete deception that ever imposed upon the visual faculties. In this phenomenon, according to the French writer, objects projecting on the oblique rays of the sun, refracted by the whiteness of the burning earth, offer so complete a resemblance of water, that the traveller is as much alarmed the tenth time he sees it, as at the first, and which is generally the more tormenting as it occurs precisely in the hottest part of the day. But the illusion o f water is not the only object that serves to tantalize the traveller; camels and all kinds of animals, at the same time appear to be constantly moving with uncommon rapidity. To the curious it will, however, be worthy of consideration, that nothing like the merit of a new discovery is to be attributed to M. Denon.—Neither is what the French writers call a *Mirage*, peculiar to Egypt; Mr. Barrow, author of Travels into the Interior of Southern Africa, has exactly described the same effects in that quarter, as proceeding from a large portion

portion of nitre upon the surface of the ground. He observes, that in looking through the exhalations of these beds of nitre, a meteorological phenomenon, of a different nature, was accidentally observed. In marking about sunrise, the bearing, by a compass, of a cone-shaped hill, that was considerably elevated above the horizon, a peasant well acquainted with the country, observed that it must either be a new hill, or that the only one which stood in that direction, at the distance of a long day's journey, must have greatly increased its late dimensions. Being directed to turn his eyes from time to time towards the quarter on which it stood, he perceived, with amazement, that, as the day advanced, the hill gradually sunk towards the horizon, and at length totally disappeared. The errors of sight, occasioned by the refractive power of the air, are so singular, and sometimes, so very extraordinary, as hitherto to have precluded the application of any general theorem for their correction, as it is not yet ascertained even through what medium rays of light, in their passage, suffer the greatest and least degree of refraction. Were this precisely known, observations on the subject might lead to a more intimate knowledge of the nature of the different currents of air that float in the atmosphere, and without doubt are the cause of extraordinary appearances of objects viewed through them. A gentleman, to whom the world is much indebted for his many ingenious and useful inventions and discoveries, once proposed to determine the refractive power of different liquids and aeriform fluids; and it is to be hoped he still means to prosecute a course of experiments on a subject of so much importance and curiosity.

OF A PIGMY RACE OF MEN IN THE ISLAND OF MADAGASCAR.

The Abbe Rochon in his justly celebrated Voyage à Madagascar, published about eight years since, asserts that he was a resident among these Lilliputian race of people some time. He says they entirely confine themselves to the middle region of the island. The common size of the men, he says, is three feet five, by exact measurement; and that the ladies are some inches shorter.—They are possessed of much wit and intellect, and are the boldest and most active warriors on the island. To accommodate this fairy race of mortals, the Abbe adds, that the plants and the vegetables growing on the mountains inhabited by these people, are naturally dwarfs, also—but he has unaccountably forgotten to state, whether the mountains are dwarfs as well; therefore, says his translator, we may naturally conclude that these mountains are about the size of the artificial knolls in our English pleasure gardens.

WHIMSICAL MANNER OF PUNISHING BAKERS, BUTCHERS, &c. AT GRAND CAIRO.

If a baker sells short weight, or bad bread, and is taken in the fact by the inquest (who go about daily to inspect provisions, and examine weights and measures) for the first offence, the inquest gives all the bread that they find in his shop to the poor, and then the offender is nailed to his own door, sometimes by one ear, and sometimes by both, for the space of twelve hours. For the second offence, his bread is distributed as aforesaid, and

and he receives the punishment of the bastinado, by receiving two or three hundred blows upon his feet, and sometimes upon his back, and afterwards they put a large and broad board, heavily loaded with lead, upon his shoulders, which board has a large hole in it for his head to come through; with this mark of infamy they force him to walk through most of the capital streets of the city, till his strength is nearly exhausted; and, if he survives this punishment, and commits a third offence, he is condemned to be beheaded.

If a butcher sells short weight, or stinking meat, for the first offence, his stock of meat is given to the poor, and he is tied to a post where the sun may shine all day upon him; they then hang a piece of putrid flesh close to his nose, and leave him in that position till the piece of flesh produces worms, and they fall down upon his body; besides this, he is sentenced to pay a sum of money. For the second offence he undergoes severe corporal punishments, and is obliged to pay a very heavy fine, and the third offence is punished with death. Thieves and house-breakers are also put to death, after suffering torture. If a pick-pocket or thief is taken in the fact he is beheaded without any formal trial; but an house-breaker is placed naked upon a camel, and his legs are tied under the camel's belly: the executioner rides behind him, having in his hands thin candles made of brimstone. The driver of the camel drives him through most of the capital streets, and in the mean time, the executioner having lighted the candles, puts them upon the criminal's skin; the candles being very long, hang down over his shoulders, on his breast and back, burning from the bottom upwards, and when all his candles are burnt out, carries him into a square called Karameitan, or the black square, where all criminals are beheaded, who suffer that punishment; there he

he cuts his head off, and, if he is a Mahometan, places his head under his right arm: but, if he is a Christian, under his seat.

AN ANTIDOTE TO CURIOSITY.

The Athenians had a law, which was well observed among them, whereby every man was forbidden (of whatever degree or quality soever he were) to inquire of any stranger, newly arrived in their city, from whence he came, what he was, or what he sought for; under penalty upon him that demanded such questions, to be well whipped with rods, and banished his country. The end for which our grave ancients made such laws, was to keep men from the vice of curiosity, which is always over-ready to pry into other men's affairs, and to be regardless of its own.—It is not many years since, that both in France and Spain, it was usual for the inhabitants of towns in general, to surround strangers, as they arrived, demanding what news.

A VERY SINGULAR TRIAL AND ACQUITMENT OF CECELY DE RYGEWAY, FOR THE MURDER OF HER HUSBAND.

The following is one of the most singular on record.—Cecely de Rygeway was indicted for the murder of her husband, in the 31st year of Edward III. 1347. She refused to plead, and continued mute; notwithstanding all the threats and arguments the judges could use. They adjudged her to fast forty days, in close confinement; which she actually did, and was pardoned.—The original record is in the Tower of London.—Pressure had used to be inflicted upon such stubborn subjects; but, at this period, it was probably supposed, that a secret was as liable to be *squeezed in* as squeezed out.

A DUTCH MISER AND RECLUSE.

While Mr. Barrow, the late ingenious traveller, was traversing the banks of the Hartebeest River, in one of the most

solitary colonies of the Cape of Good Hope; our next encampment, he observes, was at the house or hovel of a Dutch peasant, situated at the entrance of a narrow defile between two ranges of mountains. The figure that presented itself at the door, truly represented a being of a different country from that which we had left behind. It was a tall old man, with a thin sallow visage, and a beard of dingy black, that, extending to the eyes, where it met the straggling hair of the forehead, obscured the face like a visor. Never was a finer figure for the inhabitant of a black tower, or enchanted castle, in the page of a romance. Not accustomed to receive strangers, he seemed, on our arrival, to be somewhat agitated. In one corner of the chimney of his hovel, which consisted of one apartment, sat an old Hottentot woman, over whose head had passed at least a century of years. To her natural sallow complexion was superadded no small quantity of soot, so that she was at least as black as her bearded master. A female slave next made her appearance, of a piece with the two former. The faggot presently crackled on the hearth; a quarter of a sheep was laid on the coals to broil; and the repast was speedily served up on the lid of an old chest, for want of a table, and covered with a remnant of the same piece of cloth worn as a petticoat by the female slave, which, it seemed not unlikely, had also once been employed in the same sort of service.

It turned out in conversation, that the old gentleman had long resided in this sequestered spot far removed from all society; without wife or child, relation or friend, or any human being to converse with or confide in, except the old Hottentot and the slave, who were his only inmates, and a tribe of Hottentots in straw without. With the appearance of wretchedness and extreme poverty, he possessed immense herds of sheep and cattle, and had several large sums of money placed out at interest. He was literally what the world has properly called a miser. In justice,

justice, however, to the old man, he was one of the civilest creatures imaginable. On our return, we were much indebted to him for the assistance of his cattle, which he very obligingly sent forward to fall in with our waggons on the midst of the Karroo desert.

It is singular enough, that a brother and sister of this man, both old, and both unmarried, should each have their habitations in separate and distant corners of these mountains, and live, like him, entirely in the society of Hottentots; they are nearly related to one of the richest men in the Cape.—In civilized countries the miser distinguishes himself by refusing the necessaries of life. But, in Africa, as food is too plentiful to be an object of saving, the miser is only known, by his constant rejection of all life's ornaments and superfluities.

THE LATE W. FULLER, ESQ.—*A Penurious Character.*

THIS gentleman, though he had no patrimony to commence with, eventually accumulated, by his own industry and parsimony alone, little less than half a million sterling. The father of Mr. Fuller, says the relator of these anecdotes, as I have been informed, was a dissenting minister; and he himself, in the earlier part of his life, was the master of a reputable academy. But the *practice* of pounds, shillings and pence, was more congenial to his feelings than the *theory:* and when banking was far less common than in the present day, he relinquished the care of his academy, and established himself in this more profitable line. Nothing could exceed the miserable and miserly appearance of this man, arrayed, as he commonly was, in an old crimson velvet cap, and a suit of clothes for which no wandering Jew could have afforded him half-a-crown without being a loser. The confined and impure atmosphere of Lombard-street did not, however, agree with his health; and he, like Elwes and others, was compelled to burden himself with the

expense of a country-house. This house, however, was not quite so large as those occupied by some monied miserables. It was a little cottage, or rather hut, as we are informed, in the hamlet of Ponder's End, just affording one parlour, and two chambers for himself and his son, who proved effectually to be bone of his own bone, by the equal avidity with which he united in the hunt after gold; and who, dying a few years anterior to his own father, added his own bulky savings to those his father was already in possession of. In this rural retirement, a mutton chop a-piece, and a pint of porter between the two, formed an ample banquet for the day; and, like Sir Harvey Elwes and his nephew, when the evening darkened around them, they retired to bed to avoid the expense of candle-light. Old Fuller, nevertheless, did not, like the family of the Elwes, exhibit in his own person the portrait of famine: his form was less meagre than bloated, and inclined, in no inconsiderable degree, to that dropsical character under which the Spanish poet, Ercilla, has represented the insatiable passion of avarice.

While the old man was able, he used to walk to town on foot every morning, and return into the country in the same manner every afternoon, as soon as the business of the day was transacted. But when he became debilitated by the infirmities of age, it was necessary to travel either on horseback or in the stage, and to be attended by a servant to take care of him. This was altogether an expense which he was perpetually fearful would be the ruin of him; and particularly as, in consequence of the man's incapacity for writing, he could not be employed in the counting-house. To diminish this expense, in some measure, he thought of an ingenious contrivance, and actually hired him out every day to a druggist, during the time of his being in town, for the purpose of beating the mortar, engaging the druggist to provide him with a breakfast and dinner for the labour the

man thus performed. A very few years before his death, and when he was totally incapable of propagating his likeness in any other way, he conceived a strange desire to have his portrait taken, and applied to an ingenious artist in the city, to this effect, in a dress of more than ordinary poverty, that he might be the better able to make a good bargain. Upon demanding the price of a three-quarter picture, the painter asked him seven guineas and a half.—This the old miser thought a most enormous sum, and declared himself totally unable to advance it with convenience. He offered five guineas; and the artist, who was at that time in want of business, at length agreed to his proposal, and took his address. On the ensuing morning he paid him his first visit, and was astonished to find that the man who had applied to him in a state of such apparent indigence was the wealthy and well-known William Fuller.—Having made the bargain, nothing, however, remained for him but to fulfil it; and this he did so much to the satisfaction of the old banker, that he requested, as a particular favor, that the artist would take it home and make two copies from the original painting. The young artist readily assented; and, upon producing the whole together, Fuller offered him the five guineas for which he had at first agreed. The painter, however, demanded fifteen, being five for each picture. Fuller was extremely indignant, and declared that he was most unconscionably imposed upon; that the original agreement was for five; and that, as to the copies, they were to be given him as a matter of favor. The painter, nevertheless, would not relax, and he threw him the money with most abusive wrath.

In a manner not dissimilar, he once sallied forth for a physician of eminence, to attend, as he told him, a poor sick woman, who was an object of real charity, and whom he largely contributed to support. The physician accompanied this truly charitable man, and found, on an old mattrass

trass in a garret, with a most scanty supply of furniture and nourishment, the woman referred to, who, from age and infirmities, it was very plain, had nearly numbered her days. He prescribed for her, was most heartily thanked by his employer, and earnestly requested to repeat his visits daily; but beyond these hearty thanks, he never received one farthing: and yet the reader will be astonished to learn, as the physician was himself on his first discovery of the fact, that this indigent old woman, who was so truly an object of charity, was no less than the very sister of the penurious hero of our tale.

It should be stated, to the honor of the executors of this extraordinary miser, that the physician here referred to has been lately remunerated in a more solid and satisfactory manner than by the empty gift of thanks.

The fact alluded to, concerning his having retained his clerks upon lower wages than were offered in any other banking-house in the city, by promising them legacies upon his decease, is a well known truth:—promises, nevertheless, which he adhered to in no one instance whatsoever. His will he drew up himself, to save the expense of employing an attorney, and upon the scrap of an old letter, one night, as it is supposed, when he was at his lodgings in the country, but of which no one was apprized at the time; and in this extraordinary manner he bequeathed the enormous sum of very little less than five hundred thousand pounds, accumulated by an equal proportion of industry and avarice.

And yet it is said that even this miser, as well as some others of recent date, did not pass through life without his good deeds; and that if he were unjust to those immediately around him, he was occasionally generous to strangers, and exercised some few acts of charitable contribution. If this be true, and it has been mentioned from quarters that prohibit doubt, it only demonstrates, by an additional example, the resemblance

blance of all extremes; and teaches us that it is easier for the miser, as well as for the spendthrift,—for William Fuller as well as Charles Surface—to be generous than to be just.

OF THE SPHYNX.

HAVING chosen this hieroglyphical figure as an embellishment to our cover, and though the Sphynx has been a common ornament in all Egyptian architecture, it may be here proper to notice, that the whole and individual figure which we have chosen to represent, is accurately taken from the celebrated monument of Egyptian antiquity which is still to be seen about sixty yards to the right of the great pyramid, from the eastern point, and opposite Cairo. This enormous figure, carved out of one stone, was considerably diminished in its bulk by the accumulation of sand, till the industry of the French had lately uncovered more of this figure than had been seen for centuries past. The most of its features have been mutilated by different barbarians from time to time; its face, perfectly Nubian, still preserves a considerable degree of feminine beauty; it has no breasts, neither are the feet visible; and as the rock seems to have been cut for the particular purpose of exhibiting the back of a lion, this representation is said to intimate that when the sun passes from Leo into Virgo, the increase of the Nile is sure to follow. The height of the Sphynx is 26 feet, the circumference of the head 12, while the length of the back is supposed to be nearly 60 feet. But relative to the supposition of a subterraneous passage from thence to the pyramids, it is proved totally unfounded. A very elegant print has lately been published of the Sphynx in this metropolis.

Extraor-

Extraordinary BILL *of* FARE, *furnished at the Bush Tavern, Bristol, for Christmas* 1789.

TURTLE, British turtle, giblet soup, pease soup, gravy soup, 9 cod, 5 turbots, 7 brills, 8 carp, 2 perch, 1 new salmon, 5 plaice, 200 herrings, sprats, 29 soles, 32 eels, salt fish, 5 does, 36 hares, 18 pheasants, 2 grouse, 29 partridges, 90 wild ducks, 4 wild geese, 28 teal, 24 wigeon, 5 bald coots, 1 sea pheasant, 2 mews, 12 moor hens, 1 water dab, 5 curlews, 1 bittern, 121 woodcocks, 67 snipes, 8 wild turkies, 12 golden plovers, 17 quists, 5 land rails, 6 galenas, 4 pea hens, 16 pigeons, 110 larks, 24 stares, 98 small birds, 44 turkies, 24 capons, 13 ducks, 7 geese, 62 chickens, 14 ducklings, 8 rabbits, 5 pork griskins, 14 veal burrs, 2 roasting pigs.—Oysters, stewed and scolloped, eggs, 15 hogs' puddings, Scotch collops, veal cutlets, harricoed mutton, maintenon chops, pork chops, mutton chops, rump steaks, sausages, tripe, cow-heel, 4 house lambs.—Veal, 5 legs and a loin.—Beef, 7 rumps, 1 sirloin, and 5 ribs.—Mutton, 14 haunches, 8 necks, and 4 legs.—Pork, 4 loins, 1 leg, 2 chines, and 2 spare-ribs.—Cold, Baron of Beef, 2 c. 3 qrs. 7lb. 3 hams, 4 tongues, 6 chickens, 11 collars brawn, 2 rounds beef, collared veal and mutton, collared eels, hearts, tongues, French pies, 560 minced pies, 10 tarts, 211 jellies, 200 cray fish, pickled salmon, 7 crabs, sturgeon, pickled oysters, potted partridge, potted pigeons, 24 lobsters, and 44 barrels Pyfleet and Colchester oysters.

WHIMSICAL INTERMENT.

Extract of a Letter from Tiverton, in Devonshire; dated January 9, 1746.

"MRS. WEEKES, an aged gentlewoman, of a peculiar turn of mind, was buried here last Sunday: she was carried to her grave by six men, whose wives supported the pall,

pall, and wore hoods and belts made of dowlas, of about thirteen pence a yard, tied with white tape: the men had gloves, half-a-crown each, and a quart of cider heated with ginger; her servant-maid was mourner in chief, and followed the corpse in a hood and scarf of the order above; the minister (who had half-a-guinea and a pair of gloves) and the coffin-maker led the way; and no other persons were invited to the funeral. The procession began about nine in the morning; but not a tear was shed on the occasion, as the peculiarity of the sight rather excited mirth than grief. Though she was buried at nine, as above, six persons attended with lighted flambeaux, and wore dowlas hatbands, and were rewarded with thirteenpence halfpenny each for their trouble. Mrs. Weekes's funeral was agreeable to her life, which was a series of whim and inconsistency, and that the last effort of a singular vanity."

A PAIR OF PORTRAITS.

Lately died, at her house in Canterbury, Mrs. Celestina Collens, widow, aged 70. Although possessing an income of £70 per annum, her habits of life were singularly disgusting, her disposition and peculiarities so excentric, that she may be truly said to have verified the old adage, *de gustibus nil disputandum;* that is, there is no disputing about tastes.

During many years her constant companions were from sixteen to twenty fowls, whose ordure defiled as well her bed and every article of her furniture, as the plate out of which she ate; a favorite cock, whose age might be calculated from his spurs, being three inches long, and an equally favored rat, were for a length of time constant attendants at her table.

Her predilection for vermin prevailed so much, that, at her death, a nest of mice was found in her bed. The house where she resided, besides the room in which she

constantly lived and slept, contained two others, that had not been permitted to be opened for many years.

Among the bequests in her will, are £50 to the Kent and Canterbury Hospitals; the same sum to the parish of St. Peter; £5 to the minister of the parish for a funeral sermon, and one guinea to each of the persons who should carry her to the grave; besides many other legacies, generally to persons in no degree related to her.

And a few days after, aged about 43, in the parish of Prees, in the county of Salop, a very singular character, of the name of Booth. He was by trade a cobbler; had existed (for he could hardly be said to have lived, having deprived himself of common necessaries) upwards of twenty years in a miserable hut, the roof of which had fallen in some time ago. He was about six feet two or three inches high; very pale and meagre, his voice weak and feminine, and had no beard either on his lip or chin. In an old box in his possession, there were found upwards of thirty love letters and valentines, which he had received from different females in the neighbourhood; and also money and bonds to the amount of near £500.—The former, no doubt, were the effects of sport among the fair sex; to whom such characters appear, beyond measure, ridiculous.

Interesting Particulars of GEORGE FORSTER, *lately executed for the* MURDER *of his* WIFE *and* CHILD, *by drowning them in the New Canal at Paddington.*

THIS unhappy malefactor was tried at the Old Bailey, on Friday, January 14, 1803, and was one of the very few instances of persons convicted upon circumstantial evidence only: though on the morning of his execution, on Monday following, he confessed his crime, and the justice of his sentence; and frankly owned, that he actually pushed



George Forster.

Aged 26

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pushed his wife and child into the river. Forster was about 26 years of age, a coach-harness maker by trade, and of a strong athletic make. A very uncommon circumstance is said to have occurred to Forster, at the Chapel in Newgate, previous to his receiving the sacrament, usual with condemned criminals; a sudden noise being then heard, which could not be accounted for, the minister started, and looking at the criminal, who was much agitated; and, at the same time, exclaiming—"*What can that be!*" Forster replied—"*'Tis my wife, and she has not left me a moment since I murdered her.*" Forster, it is observed, never ate any food from the time of his condemnation till his execution. And what renders the exit of this criminal infinitely more interesting than it otherwise might have been, is the Galvanic experiments which were performed upon his body, and which were the first of the kind ever made in this country. Leave, it seems, was granted for this purpose, through the medium of Mr. White, Surgeon to his Majesty, to Professor Aldini, an Italian gentleman, inheritor of this science, from his uncle, Luigi Galvani, Professor of Anatomy; the particulars of which, with the outline of the history of the surprising art of Galvanism, are to be found in the following pages.

The science of Galvanism, which may be called a stronger degree of electricity, being new to the greatest part of the world, the curious will rejoice to hear, that, from the recent experiments of Professor Aldini, upon the body of Forster, above-mentioned, it is generally inferred, that the process having such power to agitate the muscles and even the limbs of the dead; applied to the living, it is highly probable, that some stubborn disorders in the human œconomy, which have hitherto baffled all other means, may yield to this new discovery; and thus, justly, enhance the importance of Galvanism.

From a perusal of the account of these late experiments (lasting seven hours and a half), published by Professor Aldini; it appears, that a hand of the deceased, was made to move, lift up, and clench the fist, and an eye seen to open, the legs and thighs set in motion; and all this, some hours after his death had been inflicted. It is also to be noticed, that these were the first experiments of Galvanism ever tried in this country, or upon the body of any person that had been hanged. Nor were Mr. Aldini's experiments begun till the body of Forster had been exposed for a whole hour in a temperature, two degrees below the freezing point of Fahrenheit's thermometer; at the end of which long interval, it was conveyed to a house not far distant, where Mr. Aldini was in waiting, to commence his operations.

In the course of this process we find, that, to assist the Galvanic *conductor*, *volatile alkali* was applied to the nostrils and mouth; incisions made in the wrist; the short muscles of the thumb dissected, and lastly, the thorax, or stomach, and the pericardium opened, and the heart exposed. But here the endeavours to excite action in the ventricles were without success. Salt-water was also applied by the Professor to several parts of the body, as a stimulant, but the longer the experiments lasted, the weaker they became in their effects; though Mr. Aldini had no doubt, but that if his apparatus had been stronger, the muscular motion of the dead body might have been much longer continued, and from the whole of the process upon Forster, he concludes: 1st. That Galvanism, considered by itself, exerts a considerable power over the nervous and muscular systems, and operates universally on the whole of the animal œconomy. 2d. That the power of Galvanism, as a stimulant, is stronger than any mechanical action whatever. 3d. That the effects of Galvanism on the human frame differ from those produced by electricity communicated with common electrical

machines.—4th, That Galvanism, whether administered by means of troughs or piles, differs in its effects from those produced by the simple metallic coatings employed by Galvani, (its original discoverer).—5th. That when the surfaces of the nerves and muscles are armed with metallic coatings, the influence of the Galvanic batteries is conveyed to a greater number of points, and acts with considerably more force in producing contractions of the muscular fibre.—6th. That the action of Galvanism on the heart is different from that on other muscles. For when the heart is no longer susceptible of the Galvanic influence, the other muscles remain still excitable for a certain time. It is also remarkable that the action produced by Galvanism on the auricles is different from that produced on the ventricles of the heart, as is demonstrated in Experiment the tenth.—7th. That Galvanism affords very powerful means of resuscitation in cases of suspended animation under common circumstances. The remedies already adopted in asphyxia, drowning, &c. when combined with the influence of Galvanism, will produce much greater effect than either of them separately.

Mr. Aldini concludes with a short but accurate account of the appearances exhibited on the dissection of the body, which was performed with the greatest care and precision by Mr. Carpue.—"The blood in the head was not extravasated, but several vessels were prodigiously swelled, and the lungs were entirely deprived of air; there was a great inflammation in the intestines, and the bladder was fully distended with urine. In general, upon viewing the body, it appeared that death had been immediately produced by a real suffocation."

The Professor employs much acute reasoning to prove, that the first application of Galvanism to drowned persons, would almost generally ensure their safe recovery: and relative to the assistance he received from the Members of the College of Surgeons, he expresses his heartfelt gratitude.

To

To improve these trials, he adds, that Mr. Keate, the Master, in particular, proposed to make comparative experiments on animals, in order to give support to the deductions resulting from those on the human body. Mr. Bliche observed, that on similar occasions it would be proper to immerse the body in a warm salt bath, in order to ascertain how far that powerful and extended coating might promote the action of Galvanism on the whole surface of the body. Dr. Pearson recommended oxygen gas to be substituted instead of the atmospheric air blown into the lungs. Mr. Aldini observes, it gives me great pleasure to have an opportunity of communicating these observations to the public, in justice to the eminent characters who suggested them; and, as an inducement to physiologists, not to overlook the minutest circumstance which may tend to improve experiments that promise so greatly to relieve the sufferings of mankind.

For a clear and concise history of this interesting discovery, our Readers are referred to the following particulars:—

About forty years since, Sulzer and Cottuni made some evident advances in this science; yet, Vassale, a Member of the Academy of Turin, published a variety of experiments upon it, in 1789. But it was reserved for another, to throw new light upon this important subject.

Luigi Galvani, Professor of Anatomy, in the University of Bologna, after interrogating nature with all the patience and ability of a philosopher, communicated her responses, by pronouncing the existence of an electrico-animal fluid. In his celebrated Book, "*De viribus electricitatis in motu musculari*," he describes the various facts collected by him, in consequence of long and scientific researches. The first thing that arrested his attention, was the contractions manifested by a frog, every time that a spark was drawn from an electrical machine, provided the crural

crural nerves of the animal were touched at the same period with the blade of a knife. By repeating and varying this experiment, he was persuaded that these contractions did not proceed from any mechanical irritation, and he concluded that the *phenomena* were occasioned by the influence of electricity alone.

In the course of his labours, being anxious to ascertain whether natural and artificial electricity produced the same effects, he placed an animal, prepared for this purpose, so as to communicate with a conductor, and every time that a cloud charged with lightning passed over his house, the living subject notified the event by violent spasms. Soon after this, he was led in the course of his enquiries to conclude, that there existed two kinds of fluids in the animal system; the one, negative in the muscles, and the other positive in the nerves. Further researches conducted him to the irritation excited by the operation of metals in contact, or the muscles when they were placed so as to communicate with the external part of the nerve.

Anterior to the demise of Galvani, (which occurred December 4, 1798), Valli, a physician of Pisa, still further developed this new theory; he termed the conductor of the Professor of Bologna, an *excitator*, as exciting the nervous fluid, or the nerve itself to produce certain results; he also demonstrated the close resemblance, or rather identity of the Galvanic with the Franklinian system.

The philosophers now took different sides, and while Fontana, an Italian, asserted that the phenomena did not proceed from electricity, Lamethrie, a Frenchman, maintained in the *Journal de Physique*, (42d vol.) that there was no difference whatever between the two powers, except that the one was weaker than the other.

Gaillard, the countryman of the latter, endeavoured to arrange the metals in the express ratio of their action on the animal œconomy; and, according to him, they rank in the following

following order :—Zink, tin, lead, antimony, bismuth, copper, mercury, and silver.

Dr. Aldini, an Italian Professor, is the nephew of Galvani. He has not only superintended the experiments that have lately taken place, and which have been repeated and varied a thousand different ways on the Continent, but written several Treatises on this subject, viz. 1. De animali electricitate dissertationes duæ; 2. Del' uso e dell' attivita dell' arco conduttore nelle contrazioni dei muscoli; and, 3. Memorie sulla electricita animale di Luigi Galvani, &c.

In fine, many novel and extraordinary phenomena have been produced in consequence of this recent discovery.—The legs of men and horses, a considerable time after separation from their respective bodies, have been *excited* to motion, and the dormouse has been aroused out of its winter's sleep, and *irritated* before the approach of summer, into premature action.

How far future researches may reach, it is impossible to determine; as it appears, however, at present, that the *Galvanic susceptibility* survives unaltered, in certain cases of suffocation, some practical good may be already derived from it, as although it does not apply to the general practice of medicine, it may yet be employed with success, in that branch under the immediate protection of the Humane Society.

It should be noticed, that the present Professor Aldini, is the nephew of Galvani, the author of the discovery; and that the former has already exhibited his experiments at Oxford; at Mr. Wilson's Anatomical Theatre in London; and at St. Thomas's and Guy's Hospitals.—The Lecturers and Pupils of which, have presented the Professor with a gold medal, in honorable testimony of their approbation. The art of Galvanism, however, is still in its infancy; but it will be the province of this Museum, to report every thing new and striking.

CURIOUS

CURIOUS ACCOUNT OF MERMAIDS.

THOUGH the existence of this creature has been questioned by many persons, it has only been in consequence of false accounts which have been mingled with the true. The most ingenious and impartial investigators of natural history, have now rescued the truth from a mixture of error. Some of the latest writers have more consistently called this creature the Sea Ape. In the sea of Angola, we learn, that they are frequently caught, as the negroes eat their flesh, which is said to eat like pork. When taken, they are heard to shriek and cry like women.—And in the Universal Dictionary, published by John Theodore Jablonsky, we find the following description of them :—Meer-man, Meer-weib, Meer-minne, that is, Sea-man, Mer-maid, or Siren, called by the Indians, Ambisiangulo, otherwise Pesiengoni, and by the Portuguese, Pezz Muger, is a fish found in the seas, and some rivers in the southern parts of Africa and India, and in the Philipine and Molucca islands, Brazil, North America, and Europe, in the North Sea. The length of this fish is eight spans, its head is oval, and the face resembles that of a man. It has an high forehead, little eyes, a flat nose, and large mouth, but has no chin or ears. It has two arms, which are short, but without joints or elbows, with hands (which are not very flexible), connected to each other by a membrane, like that of the foot of a goose. Their sex is distinguished by the parts of generation. The females have breasts to suckle their offspring ; so that the upper part of their body resembles that of the human species, and the lower part that of a fish. Their skin is of a brownish grey colour, and their intestines are like those of a hog. Their flesh is as fat as pork, particularly the

upper part of their bodies; and this is a favorite dish with the Indians, broiled upon a gridiron.

Our author proceeds thus:—As I may safely give credit to this person, namely, the Rev. Mr. Peter Angel, who is still living, and minister of the parish of Vand-Elvens Speld, on Sundmoer, I shall relate what he assured me of last year, when I was on my visitation journey. He says, that in the year 1719, (he being then about twenty years old), along with several other inhabitants of Alstahoug in Norland, saw what is called a mer-man, lying dead on a point of land near the sea, which had been cast ashore by the waves, along with several sea-calves, and other dead fish. The length of this creature was much greater than what has been mentioned of any before; namely, above three fathoms. It was of a dark grey colour all over; in the lower part it was like a fish, and had a tail like that of the porpesse. The face resembled that of a man, with a mouth, forehead, eyes, &c. The nose was flat, and as it were, pressed down to the face, in which the nostrils have ever been visible. The breast was not far from the head; the arms seemed to hang by the side, to which they were joined by a thin skin or membrane. The hands were, to appearance, like the paws of a sea-calf. The back of this creature was very fat, and a great part of it was cut off, which, with the liver, yielded a large quantity of train oil. That this creature, which is reckoned among the whale kind, is a fish of prey, and lives upon the smaller sort, may be concluded, from what Mr. Luke Debes relates, in his description of Faroe. He tells us that they have there seen a mer-maid with fish which she held in her hand. The words are in p. 171, as follows:—There was also seen in 1670, at Faroe, westward of Quelboe Eide by many of the inhabitants, as also by others from different parts of Suderoe, a mer-maid close to the shore. She stood there two hours and a half, and was up to the navel in water; she had long hair on her head,

head, which hung down to the surface of the water all round about her; she held a fish with its head downwards, in her right hand. I was told also, that in the same year, the fishermen in Westerman-haven, on Stromoe, had, in their fishery north of Faroe, seen a mer-maid.

That these creatures being fish of prey, sometimes quarrel with the sea-calf, is confirmed by a relation sent me, with several others, by the Rev. Mr. Hanstrom, at Bergen. It runs to this effect:—"It happened at Neræ, in Numedalen, that there was found a mer-man and sea-calf on a rock, both dead and all over bloody; from which it is conjectured that they had killed one another."

In the year 1624, a mer-man, thirty-six feet, long, was taken in the Adriatic Sea; according to Henry Seebald's Breviar Histor. to this the last mentioned, was but a dwarf. See p. 535. As to their form, it is said, that some have a skin over their heads like a monk's hood, which, perhaps, serves them for the same purpose; as does the skinny hood, which a certain sort of sea-calves have on their heads, which from thence are called Klap-mitzer, as has been observed in the description of that creature. Olaus Magnus speaks, in lib. xxi. cap. 1. of several monsters in the North Sea, all which resemble the human kind, with a monk's hood on the head. His words are, "*Cucullate hominis forma;*" he adds, that if any of this company be catched, a number of them set up a howl, put themselves in violent agitations, and oblige the fishermen to set the prisoner at liberty. But this last article is a mere romance, to which this too credulous author in this, as well as some other particulars, has given too much credit, without sufficient grounds.

Of this mer-man with a hood, Rondeletius writes thus, in Gesner. de Aquatilibus, lib. iv, which I ought not to omit.

As this account confounds Norway with the Sound, and Malmoe, which the Dutch call the Elbow, I conclude this strange fish here spoken of, to have been just the same with that which Arild Hvitfield in vita Christ. iii ad

anno

anno 1550, speaks of. He says it was caught in Oresund, and brought to Copenhagen, and there burned by his Majesty's orders, because the head resembled that of a human creature, with cropped hair, and covered with a monk's hood. There is yet a difference observed in this mer-man or mermaid's lower parts and the tail. These are represented in most of the drawings, with fins like other fish, and with a flat and divided tail, something like that of the porpesses; from this, that print of a Siren, which Thom. Barthol. gives us in Historia. Anatomica. centur. ii. No. IX, page 188, differs entirely; for the lower extremity is there represented with a round protuberance, without the least sign of a fin, or any thing like the tail of a fish.

Astonishing Deliverance from imminent Danger in the Case of a Fowler, on the Coast between Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

(Related by the Rev. W. GILPIN.)

THE hazardous occupation of a Fowler, once led him into a case of great distress; this being in the day-time, it shews still greater danger of such expeditions in the night. Mounted on his mud-pattens (flat pieces of board tied on his feet), he was traversing one of these midland plains in quest of ducks; and being intent only on his game, he suddenly found the waters, which had been brought forward with uncommon rapidity, by some peculiar circumstances of tide and current, had made an alarming progress around him. Incumbered as his feet were, he could not exert much expedition; but to whatever part he ran, he found himself completely invested by the tide. In this uncomfortable situation, a thought struck him, as the only hope of safety. He retired to that part of the plain, which seemed the highest, from its being yet uncovered by water; and, striking the barrel of his gun (which, for the purpose of shooting wild fowl, was very long) deep into the mud, he resolved to hold fast

fast by it, as a support, as well as a security against the waves, and to wait the ebbing of the tide. A common tide, he had no reason to believe would not, in that place, have reached above his middle; but as this was a spring-tide, and brought forward with a strong westerly wind, he durst hardly expect so favourable a conclusion; in the midst of this reasoning on the subject, the water making a rapid advance, had now reached him. It covered the ground on which he stood, it rippled over his feet, it gained his knees, his waist, button after button, swallowed up, till at length it advanced over his very shoulders; with a palpitating heart, he gave himself up for lott. Still, however, he held fast by his anchor. His eye was eagerly in search of some boat, which might accidentally take its course that way; but none appeared. A solitary head, floating on the water, and sometimes covered by a wave, was no object to be described from the shore, at a distance of half a league; nor could he exert any sounds of distress, that could be heard so far. While he was thus making up his mind, as the exigence would allow, to the terrors of a certain destruction, his attention was called to a new object. He thought he saw the uppermost button of his coat begin to appear. No mariner, floating on a wreck, could behold a cape at sea, with greater transport, than he did the uppermost button of his coat. But the fluctuation of the water was such, and the turn of the tide so slow, that it was yet some time before he durst venture to assure himself, that the button was fairly above the level of the flood. At length however a second button appearing at intervals, his sensations may rather be conceived, than described; and his joy gave him spirit and resolution, to support his uneasy situation four or five hours longer, till the waters fully retired.

Circumstantial Evidence.

About forty years ago, at one of the provincial Assises, a gentleman was tried and convicted, upon *circumstantial evidence* of the murder of his niece. The circumstances sworn to were as follow:—That the uncle and niece were seen walking in the fields; that a person at a small distance heard the niece exclaim—"Don't kill me, uncle!—Don't kill me!"—and that instant a pistol or fowling-piece was fired off. Upon these circumstances the gentleman was convicted and executed. Near twelve months after, the niece, who had eloped, arrived in England, and hearing of the affair, elucidated the whole transaction. It appeared that she had formed an attachment for a person whom her uncle disapproved: when walking in the fields, he was earnestly dissuading her from the connexion, when she replied—"That she was resolved to have him, or it would be her death, and therefore said, Don't kill me, uncle!—Don't kill me!" At the moment she uttered these words, a fowling-piece was discharged by a sportsman in a neighbouring field. The same night she eloped from her uncle's house, and the combination of those suspicious circumstances, occasioned his ignominious death.

Account of Giants: *from a Memoir lately read before the Academy of Sciences at Rouen.*

By M. Le Cat.

The Bible mentions several races of Giants, as the Rephaims, the Anakims, the Emims, the Zomzommims, and others. Profane historians also mention Giants: they gave seven feet of height to Hercules their first hero, and in our days we have seen men eight feet high. The giant who was shown in [illegible], in 1765, measured eight feet seven inches; the Emperor Maximian was of

that size; Skenhius and Plateries, physicians of the last century, saw several of that stature; and Goropius saw a girl that was ten feet high.

The body of Orestes, according to the Greeks, was eleven feet and a half; the giant Galbora, brought from Arabia to Rome under Claudius Cæsar, was near ten feet; and the bones of Secondilla and Pusio, keepers of the gardens of Sallust, were but six inches shorter.

Funnam, a Scotsman, who lived in the time of Eugene the second, king of Scotland, measured eleven feet and a half; and Jacob le Maire, in his voyage to the Streight of Magellan, reports, that on the 17th of Dec. 1615, they found at Port Desire several graves covered with stones, and having the curiosity to remove the stones, they discovered human skeletons of ten and eleven feet long.

The Chevalier Scory, in his voyage to the Pike of Teneriffe, says, that they found in one of the sepulchral caverns of that mountain, the head of a Guanche, which had eighty teeth, and that the body was not less than fifteen feet long.

The giant Ferragus, slain by Orlando, nephew of Charlemain, was eighteen feet high.

Revland, a celebrated anatomist who wrote in 1614, says, that some years before there was to be seen in the suburbs of St. Germain, the tomb of the giant Isoret, who was twenty feet high.

In Rouen, in 1509, in digging in the ditches near the Dominicanno, they found a stone tomb containing a skeleton, whose skull held a bushel of corn, and whose shin bone reached up to the girdle of the tallest man there: being about four feet long, and consequently the body must have been seventeen or eighteen feet high; upon the tomb was a plate of copper, whereon was engraved, "In this tomb lies the noble and Puissant Lord, the Chevalier Ruon de Vallemont, and his bones." Platerus,

a famous physician, declared that he saw at Lucarne the true human bones of a subject, which must have been at least nineteen feet high.

Valance, in Dauphine, boasts of possessing the bones of the giant Bucart, tyrant of the Vivarais, who was slain by an arrow by the Count de Cabillon, his Vassal. The Dominicans had a part of the shin bone, with the articulation of the knee, and his figure painted in fresco, with an inscription shewing that this giant was twenty-two feet and a half high, and that his bones were found in 1705 near the banks of the Morderi, a little river at the foot of the mountain of Crusol, upon which (tradition says), the giant dwelt.

January 11, 1613, some masons digging near the ruins of a castle in Dauphiné, in a field which (by tradition) had long been called the giant's field, at the depth of eighteen feet discovered a brick tomb thirty feet long, twelve feet wide, and eight feet high, on which was a gray stone, with the words Theutobochus Rex cut thereon; when the tomb was opened, they found a human skeleton entire, twenty-five feet and a half long, ten feet wide across the shoulders, and five feet deep from the breast-bone to the back, his teeth were each about the size of an ox's foot, and his shin bone measured four feet.

Near Magarino, in Sicily, in 1516, was found a giant thirty feet high; his head was the size of a hogshead, and each of his teeth weighed five ounces.

Near Palermo, in the valley of Magara in Sicily, a skeleton of a giant, thirty feet long, was found in the year 1548, and another of thirty-three feet high, in 1550, and many curious persons have preserved several of the gigantic bones.

The Athenians found near thirty-two famous skeletons, one of thirty-four, and another of thirty-six feet high.

At

At Totic, in Bohemia, in 758, was found a skeleton, the head of which could scarce be encompassed by the arms of two men together, and whose legs, which they still keep in the castle of the city, were twenty-six feet long.

The skull of the giant found in Macedonia, September 1691, held two hundred and ten pounds of corn.

The celebrated Sir Hans Sloane, who treated the matter very learnedly, does not doubt these facts, but thinks the bones were those of elephants, whales, or other animals. Elephants bones may be shewn for those of giants, but this can never impose on Connoisseurs.

Whales, which, by their immense bulk, are more proper to be substituted for the largest giants, have neither arms nor legs, and the head of that animal hath not the least resemblance with that of a man; if it be true, therefore, that a great number of the gigantic bones which we have mentioned have been seen by anatomists, and have by them been reputed real human bones, the existence of giants is proved. T. W.

RARITIES *from* EGYPT.

An Account of Pieces of Antient Sculpture taken by the British forces under Lieutenant General Lord Hutchinson in Egypt, from the French army in Alexandria, and sent to England under the charge of Colonel Turner, September 1802.

1. AN Egyptian Sarcophagus of a stone, called by the French *Breche Verte*, from the Mosque of St. Athanasius, in Alexandria.

2. Ditto, ditto of black granite, from Cairo.

3. Ditto, ditto of basaltes, from Menouf.

4. The

4. The fist of a Colossean statue, supposed to be Vulcan, found in the ruins of Memphis.

5. Five statues of lions, with lions heads, black granite, brought from the ruins of Thebes.

6. A mutilated figure, kneeling, black granite.

7. Two statues, white marble, supposed to be Septimus Severus, and Marcus Aurelius, found in the researches made in Alexandria.

8. A stone of black granite, with three inscriptions, Hieroglyphic, Coptic, and Greek, found near Rosetta.

9. A statue of a woman, sitting, with a lion's head, black granite, from Upper Egypt.

10. Two fragments of lion's heads, black granite, from Upper Egypt.

11. A small figure, kneeling, with hieroglyphics, black granite, from Upper Egypt.

12. Five fragments of statues, with lions heads, black granite, from Upper Egypt.

13. A fragment of a sarcophagus, black granite, from Upper Egypt.

14. Two small obelisks, remarkably fine, with hieroglyphics, basaltes, from Upper Egypt.

15. A colossean ram's head, of a stone, called by the French *rouge grais*, from Upper Egypt.

16. A statue of a woman sitting on the ground, of black granite; between the feet is a model of the capital of a column of a temple of Isis, at Dendera.

17. A fragment of a statue with a lion's head, black granite, from Upper Egypt.

A chest of oriental manuscripts, amounting to sixty-two, Coptic, Arabic, and Turkish, belonging to the library of the French Institute at Cairo.

W. TURNER,
Col. and Capt. of Guards.

Surprising

Surprising Faculty of sustaining Extreme Heat *and* Cold.

Till within a very short period since, the customs and manners of no parts of the world have been less known, than those of the North.—The scenes of luxury which you have described in your last number, in the fete given by Prince Potemkin, and the Winter Garden at Petersburgh would, were they not well authenticated, appear almost incredible; but that the Northern regions are the theatre of some other *extremes* not less striking, will probably appear from the following sketch of Vapour Bathing in Finland, as witnessed by a very ingenious and intelligent traveller. Your's S. S.

Almost all the Finnish peasants have a small house built on purpose for a bath; it consists of only one small chamber, in the innermost part of which are placed a number of stones, which are heated by fire till they become red. On these stones, thus heated, water is thrown until the company within be involved in a thick cloud of vapour. In this innermost part the chamber is formed into two stories for the accommodation of a great number of persons within that small compass; and it being the nature of heat and vapour to ascend, the second story is of course the hottest. Men and women use the bath promiscuously, without any concealment of dress or being in the least influenced by any emotions of attachment. Though not in total darkness, yet they are in great obscurity, as there is no other window besides a small hole, nor any light but what enters in from some chinks in the roof of the house, or the crevices between the pieces of wood of which it is constructed.

The Finlanders, all the while they are in this hot-bath, continue to rub themselves, and lash every part of their bodies with switches, formed of the twigs of the birch

birch trees. In ten minutes they become as red as raw flesh, and have altogether a very frightful appearance. In the winter season they will frequently go out of the bath, naked as they are, to roll themselves in the snow; and will sometimes come out, still naked and converse together, or with any one near them in the open air. If travellers happen to pass by, whilst the peasants of any hamlet, or little village, are in the bath, and their assistance is needed, they will leave the bath, and assist in yoking or unyoking, and fetching provender for the horses, or any thing, without any sort of covering whatever, while the passenger sits shivering with cold, though wrapped up in a good sound wolf's skin. There is nothing more wonderful than the extremities which man is capable of enduring through the power of habit.

The Finnish peasants pass thus instantaneously from an atmosphere of seventy degrees of heat, to one of thirty degrees cold, a transition of one hundred degrees, which is the same thing as going out of boiling into freezing water; and what is more astonishing, without the least inconvenience!

Those peasants assure you, that without the hot vapour baths they could not sustain, as they do, during the whole day, their various labours. By the bath they tell you that their spirits are refreshed as much as by sleep. The heat of the vapour molifies to such a degree their skin, that the men easily shave themselves with wretched razors, and without soap.

A FOREST *under* GROUND:

THE remains of which are said to have been discovered in the course of the digging of the New Docks in the Isle of Dogs, having excited the attention of the curious, supposed by some to be the greatest natural curiosity in this

this empire, perhaps in Europe. All that is called antiquity seems but a yesterday, compared with this wonderful ruin, of which there is no tradition whatsoever. Immense trees, with their bark uninjured, although their trunks are rotten, glass, charcoal, filbert shells, perfect human bones, &c. &c. are amongst the contents of this unexplored subterranean.

But with due deference to the opinion here expressed, the idea of a forest under ground, in England, is not altogether without a parrallel. Joseph Correa de Seira, L. L. D. has lately published a paper, in which speaking of a subterraneous marine forest on the eastern coast of Lincolnshire, he observes, the islands discoverable at some distance from the coast of Lincolnshire, at the lowest ebbs, chiefly consist of roots, trunks, and branches of trees, intermixed with leaves of aquatic plants; the bark and roots are fresh, but the timber, which is oak, birch, and fir, soft, except at the knots; the trunks and branches considerably flattened. Leaves of the ilex aquifolium and the willow, and the roots of the arundo phragmites, are distinguishable. These islets extend about twelve miles in length, and one in breadth, opposite to Sutton shore: the channels between them from four to twelve feet deep; the strata around afford similar appearances of decayed vegetables; gravel and water are found at one hundred and forty feet below the present surface.

Account of the late SAMUEL MATTHEWS *of Dulwich, commonly called the* WILD MAN *of the* WOODS; *including his Manner of Living; his Murder on Tuesday Dec.* 23, *and his Interment in the ground of Dulwich Chapel, on Tuesday Jan.* 2, 1805.

NOTWITHSTANDING the defect of all the newspaper accounts of the origin and occupation of this unfortunate, [illegible] and

and inoffensive man, who has been so cruelly deprived of existence, we can assure our readers, that poor Matthews never was a professed gardener, though he had for so many years past, occasionally jobbed in the neighbourhood.---The general obscurity of his origin, however, is to be accounted for chiefly from his constant reluctance to the answering of all questions put to him on the subject. It was, perhaps, the only thing to which he always shewed a disposition for leaving the enquirer unsatisfied, and in the dark; but from good information upon the spot, we learn that when Matthews first made his appearance in that part of the country, he was comparatively a person of genteel address, and in the habits every way corresponding---He not only dressed well, but was remarkable for wearing two watches, and was also possessed of property; as for a considerable time before he took to living in the cave, his cloaths, &c. were deposited at the house of a widow woman at Norwood, who used to dress his victuals; but as a difference took place between them, and the poverty of Matthews seemed to follow as an immediate consequence, it has been conjectured that her conduct might have been accessary to this change, though the loss of his wife was not unfrequently indicated by the deceased, as having some distant influence upon the solitary course of life which he afterwards adopted.

Previous to Matthews's arrival in that neighbourhood, it is also understood that he had lived with some tradesman near Cheapside: probably when he first came from Shropshire, in which county he was born.

When he was [illegible] known as a person in distress at Sydenham and Penwell, and attempted to take up his residence as a native of the wood, he experienced considerable opposition from some of the inhabitants, who repeatedly had him sent away as a vagrant: but as he continually

continually returned again as soon as he was set at liberty, they at length suffered him to dig his cave and remain, as he chose, without any interruption.

The simplicity of his manners and appearance, and the inoffensiveness of his behaviour, very soon convinced the people about Dulwich, that they had nothing to fear from him. He seldom entered into conversation with any person unless first accosted by them; but was very often observed talking to himself, and in his lonely walks, generally looking towards the ground.---When he came to be more known by the people about Dulwich, it was his common custom to salute them by the name of neighbour, and after the first introduction to a discourse, repugnance felt on either side, insensibly wore off, and in a very short time there were very few of his visitors, but, generally speaking, found themselves as easy as if they had been acquainted with this solitary man, for a number of years.

Still, though dwelling in this lonely state, and in a part of the neighbourhood, then less frequented than any other, his residence, and the reports of those who visited him, at length brought so many people to the place, especially on Sundays, that the way to his cave, though at first in an obscure, or rather unfrequented spot, for some years past, was nearly as well known, and as often traversed as some turnpike roads.---In fact, enquiries after the *Wild Man of the Woods*, as he was then called, were so often repeated by strangers, that it at length became necessary for the people that knew him, to point out to such at a distance, a clump of birch trees, close to his cave; and which being once known, served as a kind of land-mark, naturally leading to the object of enquiry.

But though Matthews's *Cave* has been the subject of so much curiosity and observation, he was literally an

inhabitant of the *Wood*; as all his culinary and ordinary avocations were performed in the open air. There in the manner of the Gypsies, he kindled his fire, there he boiled his meat, and to the branches of a tree, or to the foilage of a bush was the bread and cheese generally suspended, which he always brought out when visited on Sundays, and at other times: while the neighbouring brake or fern covered his bottles of beer from the eye of the officious or intrusive wanderer; and which, on the contrary, were always within the ken and comprehension of the observing recluse, who having but very few objects to divert his attention, was never at a loss to distinguish them with the utmost ease and promptitude.

But whatever was Matthews's motive for sparing himself the convenience of a knife, fork, or plates, yet as he would say, "such was"---His method at least at first, was, after he had boiled his meat (he was no convenience to roast) to turn it out into the pot lid in lieu of a plate, and then to knive or tear it with his fingers; and as for his bread, he always made a practice of pulling or tearing it to pieces.

Had the consideration of money been any part of his object, there is no doubt of his obtaining it.

Many respectable families sent him gifts at Christmas; but the love of money was not predominant in him, as he would very frequently return it when offered him.---To every one of his summer visitors, he may be said to have given his bread and beer; others however, have partaken of it, without being asked so, and without offering any recompence.

To the honour of drinking, it was not a rare, but a very frequent practice of Matthews's visitors to have recourse to the use of tobacco; but in this custom he never joined them, [illegible] that he was [illegible] smoking

smoaking was an indulgence he had never used since the death of his wife.

In complexion rather meagre and sallow, Matthews was in some measure formed for an enthusiast; but of religion or any of its appendages little indeed was ever heard of from this solitary character.---Even this, however, like the reasons of his resolution for living so much sequestered from society might have been a secret. But that another state of existence did sometimes occupy his attention, is clear from his being at one time surprized by a company who happened to approach him near his Cave, at the instant, when starting, he exclaimed, "There are ten thousand going into Hell at this moment." A degree of earnestness, and something rather uncommon in his manner, at this time, says the relator of this anecdote, seemed in some measure to shock the company, among whom were several very genteel females; but as some of the Dulwich people were then present, and knew Matthews, and as they soon turned the course of the conversation to a more agreeable subject, even the ladies became so far reconciled, as to partake of his homely refreshment.

At one period he indulged himself with the society of a cat, and which of course was much caressed; but through the difficulty of keeping it near his cave, in his absence, he found it necessary to part with this small portion of intelligent society, long before his decease.

Being once questioned by a friendly visitant, whether he never met with any object to affright or terrify him, in the dreary solitude to which he was accustomed? He confessed that one instance only excepted, he never knew what fear was.---It was then night, and being without the least suspicion, about to enter his cave, and repose upon his fern, and the rug that covered it, he perceived by the sense of feeling, that another living,

and

and wandering wight, had occupied it before him.---It was a poor man; but unlike the other degraded wretches who have since disturbed that peaceful habitation, he was civil, upon which, poor Matthews was content to share the bed with him, and, as he told his friends, gave him a good breakfast in the morning, and afterwards saw him no more.

Strange as it may appear, neither the most unfavourable weather nor the bitterest of the seasons could induce Matthews even to sleep from his beloved cave; and during one of the severest of the late winters, we have been told that it was not without the utmost persuasion, that a Welchman, in Dulwich, very partial to Matthews, could induce him to sleep a few nights in his hay-loft, at the back of his premises. He soon became weary of a superior accommodation, and returned to the fatal spot where a late act of violence put a period to his existence.

The newspapers have asserted that about five or six years since, some villians breaking into Matthews's cave, their ill usage of him at the time, viz. breaking his arm, and robbing him of twelve shillings, made him absent himself from it a year and half, during which time he slept in hay-lofts, &c.; but the fact seems to be, that Matthews was never absent from it above three months, and in that interval went down to Pembrokeshire, or Shropshire, but could not be prevailed upon to make a longer stay. This journey, he used to tell his friends, was to visit a lovely prospect.

From the same channels of intelligence we learn, that about fifty years ago he lost his wife, and was left with one daughter, and, having placed her in a situation in London, he went to live in the neighbourhood of Camberwell, where he worked as a gardener. Soon after his coming to Camberwell, he obtained leave of the managers of Dulwich college, to form himself a dwelling

on

on the land belonging to the college, which was partly an excavation of the earth, and partly covered in with fern, underwood, &c. Here, for a series of years he lived unmolesting and unmolested, following his daily avocations in performing under-gardeners work in the gardens of some of the neighbouring gentlemen; by whom, for his inoffensive and gentle demeanor, he was much liked. His return to his cave to sleep was constant, where on the Sunday he used to sell beer to such persons (of whom in the summer there were many) as from curiosity might be drawn to visit his lonely cell.

After the temporary desertion of his cave, five or six years ago, in consequence of his going down into Shropshire, we are further informed that he altered its construction, digging it from a mouth like that of an oven, into which he just left himself room to crawl; and when he laid down, contrived to fix a board against the entrance, which he propped up with his feet. All this precaution did not, however, operate to save him from future attack: for on Tuesday morning, December 28, 1802, he was found at the mouth of his cave, DEAD, with his jaw-bone broken in two places. He was discovered by a boy, who had for two or three years past paid the old man a visit, three or four times a year. Under his arm was an oaken branch, about six or seven feet long, which it is supposed the villains had put into the cave for the purpose of hooking the poor old man out, as the hooked part, which completely matched with the stick, was found broken off; and from the nature of the wound in his cheek, through which there is a large hole, it appears that it must have been hitched into his mouth, and by the violence which was used in drawing him out of his cave (the body when found being with the head towards the entrance) broke the jaw; from which, as is the opinion of a professional gentleman on the

the spot, the extravasated blood in his throat caused suffocation

The branch of the tree with which it has every appearance the deed was perpetrated, was cut immediately in the neighbourhood of the spot, as the twigs which were cut off it, were found scattered about the ground, and were preserved to be shewn to the coroner's inquest, at the French Horn, Dulwich; at which house the deceased had been on the Monday evening, and had changed half a guinea, with which he had bought some provisions, and was known to have six or seven shillings change when he left Dulwich, none of which were to be found, his pockets having been turned out, as was a secret pocket, which was only discovered after his death, and was not known to any of the persons who were acquainted with him, but had not escaped the prying eye of his murderers.

This unfortunate man was [illegible] years of age, and was as much remarked for civility as simplicity; was punctual in all his little dealings in the neighbouring villages, and might, perhaps, by the gipsies who infest the vicinity of Norwood, Dulwich, &c. be supposed worth money. Three men of this description, and who were the vagrant tenants of a camp, hard by the retreat of Matthews, have been committed on suspicion of knowing something of the [illegible] by Mr. Bowles and Mr. Bulbeck, two of the [illegible].

Sir R. Ford sent a party of the [illegible] into the neighbourhood to [illegible] could be information but they [illegible] the murderers.

On Friday, [illegible], before [illegible] for the county of Surrey, held [illegible] at Mr. Woods's, the French Horn, Dulwich, on the body of Samuel Matthews, generally called [illegible] *Woods*, whose [illegible] near the [illegible] Mr.

Mr. Bulcock, Mr. Bowles, and a Kentish Magistrate, attended. Mr. Allen, the venerable master of Dulwich College, was foreman of a jury of twenty four respectable inhabitants.

The first witness examined was Nathaniel Field, a boy of eighteen years of age, who had long been in the habit of visiting the poor old man at his hut, particularly at holiday time. In consequence on Tuesday last, about eleven o'clock, went to seek him. When he came to the cave he found him lying with his head and shoulders out of it, and the lower part of his body within. His face was very bloody and covered with fern. The boy being frightened ran upon Sydenham Common, and told some gravel-diggers what he had seen, who went with him and found Matthews in that condition. This was between the hours of ten and eleven in the forenoon. Naturally alarmed they went to communicate the circumstance to the neighbourhood, leaving one with the body; they met with a man of the name of Turner, who returned with them, and on viewing the body, applied to Mr. Tuck, the churchwarden of the district, for a shell to remove it; this was obtained, and Mr. Rickward, the constable of the parish, attending, the body was taken to the French Horn, to wait the decision of the Coroner's inquest.

Mr. Kitchen, a surgeon and apothecary, happened to be at Dulwich on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 28th day of December; on being apprised that a murder had been committed on Old Matthews, he went to the wood, and there found him just by his cave, lying on his back, his mouth filled with co-agulated blood, his right lower jaw broken in two, one part of the bone being through his cheek; there were no particular marks or bruises about his body, his head was a little bruised, and his face a little scratched, but this all might be accounted for by

the force used in dragging him out of his cave; his cloathing was then particularly searched; all his pockets, including a secret one, he had, were empty, not a coin being found upon him; near the body, close under his head, was found a large green oaken crooked stick, partly cut off, and partly twisted from a stump close by the cave, and which, on searching for, they found, and matching it with the stump, it appeared to belong to it. At the end of this stick was a hook about seven inches in length, and the doctor gave it as his opinion that this was in part, if not altogether, the means of his death, which he explained nearly as follows:—"It was the custom of the deceased to get into his cave, or hut, by crawling in, for it was not accessible otherwise; when he was in, he would turn about, and on laying down he always lay with his feet towards the board, or mat, that covered the oven-like entrance of his cave, to prevent a repetition of the disgraceful scene that occurred some years since. With the stick in question he supposed that the persons who made way with him, poked it into the cave, to endeavour to get hold of his head to drag him out, for in no other way could he be got out. In so doing, it is presumed, that the hook of the stick was put into his mouth, and from the wounds, that it had been perforated through his jaw-bone and throat, that it would most probably have occasioned a considerable discharge of blood, which he, lying on his back, concealed in his mouth, and thereby, to avoid suffocation, that inevitably was the cause of his death." On being questioned as to his opinion whether the party died a *natural* death, or met his death by *unfair means*, this opinion he declared to be, that he must have been *murdered*.

Thus far was the evidence, as far as respects the murder. The next point went to the robbery of the de-

deceased; and as to the probability of it several witnesses were examined. The first was

Thomas Turk, jun. who deposed, that on Monday last, between the hours of twelve and one o'clock, the deceased came to his father's shop, and said, "master, I am come to pay you what I owe you, 2s. 3d." The witness observed, he would look in the book, and see what it was, he could not find his name there; but as Matthews insisted he had it on Thursday last, he took the half-guinea he offered, and gave him 8s. 9d. in change for it. After that business was settled, the witness said, "Matthews, won't you have a breast of mutton?"—"No," said he.—"But won't you have it if I give it to you?" said the witness.—"O yes, I will," replied Matthews. The witness then chopped it, and gave it to the deceased's present, who immediately went away with it.

Thomas Dexy, a constable and headsman, at Sydenham, gave an account which was very strongly corroborated by Jacob Brown, of the conversation they heard and had with the prisoner at the bar.

The Jury then took a view of the body, and on their return, after an excellent charge from the Coroner, and a few minutes consultation, returned a verdict of *Wilful Murder, against some person or persons unknown.*

On Sunday, the second instant, the remains of Matthews, the poor Polish Hermit, were interred in the chapel ground of Hackney. The corpse was followed by his daughter, and her husband; after them went several of the respectable inhabitants of the parish, and an immense number of men, women, and children, who had known, and respected the deceased, in his life time, brought up the rear. The ceremony was altogether conducted in a way highly creditable to the parties concerned. The minister, it is added, delivered a very suitable discourse on the solemnity of the occasion.

On Wednesday after his interment three persons apprehended on suspicion of the murder were examined before the Magistrates at Union Hall, viz.

Joseph Spragg, Arthur Bowers, and Robert Bowers, three gypsies lately apprehended upon suspicion, for the murder of this inoffensive man Matthews, commonly called the Dulwich Hermit, were brought up on Wednesday for examination.

Thomas Davy the first witness, stated, that he is a watchman, and carries on the business of a fishman, at Sydenham, and that he is also a constable of Camberwell, which is the adjoining parish; that on the morning of Tuesday, the 28th of December, a few minutes after two o'clock, as he was coming down towards his partner's box, he saw the two chimney-sweeps at the bar, Spragg, and the boy Robert Bowers, at the watch-box; as his box was much more under the wind than his partners, he let them go down with him, and gave them some of the pea-straw he had in his box, to put his feet on, to sit on, that they might be kept from the ground, and an old split sack to put over them; this he did because he had known something of Spragg before, and that he understood they were out at that time through a mistake, in getting up between one and two, and had not to go to work till six. As they sat or lay there, he entered into a conversation with Spragg, as to how he ordered it to get away from Maidstone Gaol, where he had been confined.---Spragg explained how, which he did by getting a conditional pardon. This led to a conversation, as to where they slept last, and where they came from. This he also explained, by saying that he came from Dorking; that their tents were pitched on the side of Sydenham Common, about 200 yards from Matthews's cave. On speaking of Matthews, Spragg observed, that they had been to his cave yesterday afternoon, or evening, the

witness

witness could not swear which; that Matthews was very angry, and said go along, I have nothing to give, nothing to sell, and want nothing of you, so go along. The sweeps remained by his box, conversing at intervals, till six o'clock in the morning, when they went away.

The witness saw them go to Mr. Sadleir's door and ring at the bell, when the servant maid answered them. On the following day, when he heard that Matthews had been found dead near his cave, he could not but suspect that Spragg might have a hand in it, partly from the conversation he had with him, and from the particular circumstance of his leaving his family and tent four or five hours before he was wanted, and to lay out all night in such desperate weather; from all together he thought that it was proper they should be taken up, and which led to their apprehension.

James Brown is a farmer's servant, living at Sydenham; got up in the morning of the 28th December, and in going to fetch up his master's horses, he stopped at Davy's box, just at five o'clock; he heard the conversation with Spragg, which he recited word for word, as previously done by Davy, with the addition that the old man appeared very much frightened when they went to him.

The evidence for the prosecution was here closed for the present. Spragg and the boy Bowers were taken from the bar, and the prisoner, Arthur Bowers, was left there, and underwent a long examination.

He said he was an American born, and had been in England since the conclusion of the American war, and that his only relationship to Spragg was, that the latter lived with his wife's daughter by a former husband; that he follows much the same line of life as most of his set, selling a few toys, knives, and other articles, working when he could get any thing to do, and when he could not,

not, begging for charity. His general habits of life, and those of his family, were to sleep, when they could get leave, in the farmers barns or out-houses; when they could not obtain leave, they pitched their tents in some lane near a farm-house, for the convenience of getting a little straw to make their beds with.

On Sunday, the 26th of December, they were encamped in the lane by the Half Moon, at Streatham: early on Monday, they struck their tents and marched on to Sydenham Common; the women and the children went with the beasts of burthen, the men and boys coming on round to look for work. Bowers and his wife going through Dulwich, where, as he could not get any work to do, they begged their way, got some few pence, some broken victuals, and some mutton, which a butcher in the town cut off and gave her. At four o'clock, and no later, he was certain Spragg and the whole of the family were at their little encampment; that about five o'clock, just about dark, his wife sent the boy into the village to buy some tea and sugar; as he did not immediately return, Spragg and his wife went, as they said, in search of him, and staid away about half an hour; in the mean time the boy returned alone. From their return then, till eight in the evening, the family were engaged in cooking, eating, and drinking their tea and supper, when they all went to bed. About one o'clock, as he considers it, from the time he had been in bed, and being very ill, he was attentive to the hours, Spragg got up, and asked what time it was: he was told it could not be more than one or two o'clock, he said it must be more, for it looked as light as four or five o'clock, and he was afraid, if they staid too late, they should lose their jobs. He was still restless and uneasy, and calling the boy, who very reluctantly got up, they went out together. He never saw them again till they

came

came in to breakfast, at eight o'clock; at that time a conversation took place between him and Spragg, who acknowledged that he had got up too soon; that he passed one watch-box and came to another, where the watchman was so civil as to give him a little pea-straw to lie on, and a split sack to cover them over.

Nothing further having transpired in the examination of these persons accused on suspicion of the murder of Matthews, except the Spragg's being fully committed for trial, we must defer the continuation of this article to a future period.

Horrid Murder of the Poor Old Man Hodgkinson, near Bradford.

[illegible]

blood. When perfectly brought to his recollection, the reason he gave for the state in which he was found, was the dreadful prepossession he had felt in his mind, which seemed to operate upon him as a certain conviction that he was really buried alive; while another circumstance that confirmed this horrid idea, was the imperfect sensation that he felt from the noise of the carriages in the street, which he then imagined were rolling over his head upon the surface of the ground under which he actually conceived he was buried alive; he then made use of his utmost exertions to liberate himself from a dilemma so uncommonly distressing, as in a few minutes more he might have been dashed to pieces from the top of the house. His efforts on this occasion, and the loss of blood that followed them, had reduced him to such a degree of weakness, that he was totally unable to follow his business for near a month afterwards; and a still more considerable time elapsed before he recovered the usual flow of his health and spirits, from the circumstance continuing to prey upon his mind.---This we can assure our readers is an undoubted fact, being related by a gentleman now in the bookselling business, who assisted the young man on that occasion from his dreadful situation. But any person doubting the fact, may be satisfied of the truth of these particulars by an application to the publisher.---Related January 17, 1803.

Explosion of Iron Mines in Sweden.

The mines of Dalmora, says a modern traveller, are celebrated for producing the finest iron ore in Europe. It is not dug as in the mines of tin and coal in England, but torn up by powder. This operation is performed every day at noon, and is one of the most tremendous and awful it is possible to conceive. We arrived at the

the mouth of the great mine, which is nearly half an English mile in circumference, in time to be present at it. Soon after twelve, the first explosion began; I cannot compare it to any thing so aptly as subterraneous thunder, or rather volleys of artillery discharged under ground, and the concussion is so great as to shake the surrounding earth, or rock on every side.

As soon as the explosions were finished, I determined to descend into the mine. There is no way to do this but in a large deep bucket, capable of containing three persons, and fastened by chains to a rope. The inspector, at whose house I had slept the preceding night, took no little pains to dissuade me from the resolution, and pointed out the frequent and melancholy accidents that happened on such occasions, from which no case could absolutely deter me. Finding however, hat I was deaf to all his remonstrances, he provided a clean bucket and put two men in it to accompany me---I am not ashamed to own, that when I found myself suspended between heaven and earth by a rope, and looked down into the deep and dark abyss before me, to which I could see no termination, I shuddered with apprehension, and half repented my curiosity. This was however, only a momentary sensation, and before I had descended one hundred feet, I looked round on the scene with very tolerable composure, I was near nine minutes before I reached the bottom, it being eighty fathoms, or four hundred and eighty feet deep. The view of the mine, when I set my foot to the earth, was awful and sublime in the highest degree: whether terror or pleasure formed the predominant feeling, as I looked at it, is hard to say.---The light of the day was very faintly admitted into these subterraneous caverns, in many places it was absolutely lost, and flambeaux supplied its place; I saw beams of wood across from one side of the rock to another, where the miners

sat employed in boring holes for the admission of powder, with the utmost unconcern, though the least dizziness, or even a failure in preserving their equilibrium, must have made them lose their seat, and dashed them to pieces against the ragged surface of the rock beneath.---The fragments torn up by the explosion previous to my descent lay in vast heaps on all sides, and the whole scene was calculated to inspire a gloomy admiration.

I remained three quarters of an hour in these gloomy and frightful caverns, and traversed every part of them which was accessible, conducted by my guides. The weather above was very warm, but here the ice covered the whole surface of the ground, and I found myself surrounded with the colds of the most rigorous winter, amid darkness and caves of iron. In one of these, which ran a considerable way under the rock, were eight wretches warming themselves round a charcoal fire, and eating the little scanty subsistence produced from their miserable occupation. They rose with surprise at seeing so unexpected a guest among them, and I was not a little pleased to dry my feet, wet with treading on the melted ice, at their fire.

There are no less than one thousand eight hundred of these men, constantly employed in these mines, and their pay is only a copper dollar, or three-pence English, per day. They were first opened about 1580, under the reign of John III. but have been worked constantly since that time. After having gratified my curiosity with a full view of these subterraneous apartments, I made the signal to be drawn up, and felt so little terror while re-ascending, compared with that of being let down, that I am convinced that in five or six times, I should have been perfectly indifferent to it. So strong is the effect of custom on the human mind, and so contemptible does danger or horror become, when familiarized by continual repetition.

The

The STONE *of the* FIELD *of* LAMENTATION, *near the City of Dol, in Normandy.*

THIS is a single stone, standing in the midst of an orchard; it is between forty and fifty feet high; its circumference near the base, equals its height. There are no certain accounts when, or on what occasion it was erected; but the traditions relative to it, are equally numerous and contradictory. "I had," says the relator, "in 1779, the pleasure to see and converse with the gentleman, on whose estate it is situated. He said, the most approved opinion was, that Julius Cæsar had caused it to be erected as a trophy, to mark the extent of his conquests, after a bloody engagement, which he gained over the inhabitants of Armorica. The peasants are fully persuaded that the Devil set it up, in one of his idle hours; but added he, I have myself caused the earth to be removed round its base, to the distance of forty feet on every side; and I find that it joins to a prodigious rock, from which it seems to have sprung; so that I am induced to think, notwithstanding its name, that it may be a natural production."

Extraordinary BIRTH.

ABOUT the beginning of February 1764, a girl was born near Toulon, in France, whose whole face resembled a hare, excepting her ears; she was otherwise fair and well shaped. Her mother declares, that at the beginning of pregnancy she had a strong inclination to eat the raw heart of a hare, which her husband brought home one day, but could not prevail with herself to make known her desires. Another very remarkable fact, comes authenciated from the same quarter. The wife of

a considerable merchant, who constantly attended mass, and used to give charity to a poor man who had lost his right arm, was soon after brought to bed of a son who wanted his right hand, which the mother attributed to the impression the maimed appearance of the man made upon her mind. But what is still more remarkable; this son is grown to maturity, married, and has now a son, who, without any such impressions, was born without a hand. How will the naturalists account for this phænomenon?

Account of the BIG NAKED BEAR, *from the American Philosophical Transactions.*

THEIR reports run thus:----that among all animals that had been formerly in this country, this was the most ferocious. That it was much larger than the largest of the common bears, and remarkably long-bodied: all over, (except a spot of hair on its back of a white colour,) naked. That it attacked and devoured man and beast, and that a man, or a common bear, only served for one meal to one of these animals. That with its teeth it could crack the strongest bones. That it could not see very well, but in discovering its prey by scent, it exceeded all other animals. That it pursued its prey with unremitting ravenousness, and that there was no other way of escaping, but by taking to a river, and either swimming down the same, or saving one's self by means of a canoe. That its heart being remarkably small, it could seldom be killed with the arrow. That the surest way of destroying him was to break his back-bone. That when a party went out to destroy this animal, they first took leave of their friends and relations at home, considering themselves as going on an expedition, perhaps never

never to return again. That when out, they sought for his track, carefully attending to the course the wind blew, and endeavouring to keep as near as possible to a river. That every man of the party knew at what part of the body he was to take his aim. That some were to strike at the back-bone, some at the head, and others at the heart. That the last of these animals known of, was on the east side of the Mohicanni Sipu (Hudson's River) where, after devouring several Indians that were tilling their ground, a resolute party, well provided with bows, arrows, &c. fell upon the following plan, in which they also succeeded, *viz.* knowing of a large high rock, perpendicular on all sides, and level on the top, in the neighbourhood of where the naked bear kept, they made ladders, (Indian ladders) and placing these at the rock, they reconnoitred the ground around, and soon finding a fresh track of the animal,they hastily returned, getting on the top of the rock, and drawing the ladders up after them. They then set up a cry, similar to that of a child, whereupon this animal made its way thither, and attempted to climb the rock, the Indians pouring down their arrows in different directions, all the while upon him. The animal now grew very much enraged, biting with its teeth against the rock, and attempting to tear it with its claws, until at length they had conquered it.

The Haze *of* 1783.

In some very ingenious Meteorological observations, lately published by W. Paterson, M. D. of Londonderry, he observes the Haze of 1783, slightly mentioned by English meteorologists, was noticed by those on the Continent; and, in the months of February and March of the same year, happened the great earthquake of Calabria.

bria. It seems to have been caused by the immense quantity of inflammable air extricated from the bowels of the earth during those earthquakes, strongly electrified and impregnated with sulphureous bituminous earthy and metallic particles. The quantity was such as to diffuse itself, after a few months, over most parts of Europe. While these heterogeneous particles were held in solution, the transparency of the atmosphere was not altered: it was otherwise when they began to precipitate. The obscurity and dark red colour of the haze may be attributed to the sulphureous, metallic particles, which absorbed all but the least refrangible solar rays, particularly at sun-rise and sun-set: and the unusual load of metallic and other particles thrown into it affected the height of the barometer. Such a haze was observed after the great earthquake which destroyed the city of Tauris, in Georgia, 1721. The darkness which obscured the sun after the death of Cæsar may probably be assigned to a similar case; for, Julius Obsequens *(de Prodigiis)* tells us there were earthquakes about that time.

Curiosities from the Reports *of the* Irish Society *of Arts and Sciences.*

I. The account of the Antique Stones called the Vicars Cairn, in the county of Armagh, was communicated to the Committee of Antiquities in two letters, one from Dr. Browne, senior fellow of Trinity College, Dublin; the other from the Rev. John Young, curate of Mullabrack. Dr. B. was extremely incredulous as to the existence of the *Ogham* character on any monuments, till the late Primate Newcombe pointed out to him one on a high hill, about three miles from Armagh, on the summit of which was a small conical mount or heap of small stones, surrounded by a regular circle of large ones, upright, about 2½ feet high. He

He copied the lines, which, on comparison, he found very different from natural impressions irregularly indented on the other stones, and on some part of this. It was pointed out to him by a peasant passing by, as "the written stone;" but that he did not believe they were *letters;* and he, with a friend, copied the lines by rule and compass: and, going round the hill, they observed marks of the entrance of a cave, which impressed them with a strong persuasion that the hillock was excavated, the entrance being very like that at New Grange. They observed more indented lines towards the bottom of the interior face of the written stone by taking up the earth; but, having lost the ruler, they did not copy them, nor did they satisfactorily trace any transverse horizontal line crossing the others. Within seven miles of Dublin, on the top of a hillock on the descent of the Dalkey hills, is a circular range of stones, with a stone elbow seat in their centre. Mr. Y. adds, the Vicars Cairn has furnished stones to repair the roads. The area is circular, 44 yards diameter. The written stone stands declined in an angle of 25 degrees from the perpendicular. In 1785 John M'Carrol, proprietor of the ground, opening the West side for stones, found a wooded door-case, which, on being touched, fell to dust, with a wall, East and West, on each side of it, of hewn stones with cement, which he followed for ten feet in length, and never opened it afterwards.

II. An account of some antient Trumpets dug up in a bog near Armagh. By Arthur Browne. Four of them had been dug up at the same time, and nearly in the same place where tradition settled a great battle and the King of Ulster's palace; and one being made by an artist wind-tight, and sounded by a trumpeter of the 23d regiment of dragoons, produced a tremendous sound. Dr. B. supposed it the *Dudag* or *Skeh* trumpet of brass, mentioned by Gen. Vallancey.

Natural Curiosities *of the Island of* Sicily.

At Centorbi they have a kind of soft stone that dissolves in water, and is used in washing instead of soap, from whence it is called, Pictra Saponaro. Here, as well as in Calabria, is found the celebrated stone, which being watered and exposed to a pretty warm degree of heat, produces a plentiful crop of mushrooms. Soda, also, which is lately come into so much repute in England, was first cultivated in the island of Sicily; the Pistachio nut, and the Cantharides fly, are likewise natives of that island.

In several places they have fountains that throw up a kind of oil on their surface, which is used in lamps, &c. The Fonte Canocletto, is covered with a scum like pitch, which the country people esteem good for rheumatisms; and the water of a small lake near Naso, is celebrated for dying every thing black that is put into it, though it appears remarkably pure and transparent.

Singular Animal Flower, *found* 1764.

The inhabitants of Saint Lucia have discovered an animal flower. In a cavern of that isle, near the sea, is a large bason, from twelve to fifteen feet deep, the water of which is very brackish, and the bottom composed of rocks, from whence at all times proceed certain substances, which present at first sight beautiful flowers, of a bright shining colour, and pretty nearly resembling our marigolds: only that their tint is more lively. These seeming flowers, on the approach of a hand or instrument, retire, like a snail, out of sight. On examining this substance closely, there appears in the middle of the disk four brown filaments, resembling spiders legs, which move round a kind of yellow petals, with a pretty brisk and sponta-

spontaneous motion. These legs re-unite pincers to seize their prey; and the yellow petals immediately close to shut up that prey, so that it cannot escape. Under this appearance of a flower is a brown stalk of the bigness of a raven's quill, and which appears to be the body of some animal. It is probable, that this strange animal lives on the spawn of fish, and the small insects which the sea throws up into the bason.

An AQUATIC CASTLE, *&c.*

THIS is the name of the machine which is formed to be used in the fisheries between the coasts of Italy and Sicily; this consists of strong nets fastened to the bottom of the sea, by anchors and heavy leaden weights, at a great expence.---A narrow passage is left open, and as soon as the tunny fish have entered the enclosure, it is shut. These engines are called *Tonnaros*, and contain a great number of apartments, which are shut one after the other, till the fish are forced to the chamber of death, as it is called; where the slaughter begins with spears and harpoons.

The mackarel are caught there with a harpoon. As soon as it is dark, two men get into a boat, one of them holding a lighted torch over the surface of the water, and the other a harpoon, the light soon brings the fish to the surface, at which instant, he is pierced by the harpooner.

The coral fishery is also performed by means of an engine, composed of a great cross of wood, to the centre of which, is fixed a large stone, capable of sinking the frame to the bottom. Pieces of small net work are tied to each limb of the cross, which is poised horizontally by a rope, and let down into the water, and touching the

bottom, is made fast to a boat above; and being dragged over the beds of coral, the consequence is, that the pieces broken off by the great stone, are collected in the netting; and from this simple invention, the coral fishery in those parts have been carried to a considerable degree of profit and importance.

Extraordinary Fecundity.

JANUARY 1, 1803. The wife of Moses Solomon, a Jew, in Stoney Lane, Petticoat Lane, was safely delivered of four children, three girls and one boy, all likely to live.

In the year 1749, the wife of the Rev. Mr. Mills of Gallway, was delivered of three children at a birth, after twenty years marriage without children.

WOLVES *in* FRANCE.

A remarkable Instance of Courage in a French Officer.

DURING the war in 1759, Count de B-------, a young nobleman not twenty years of age, going on horseback from a town in Burgundy to join his regiment, was attacked by a mad wolf of an extraordinary size. The furious animal first seized the horse, and tore off such large pieces of flesh, that M. de B. was soon dismounted. Then the wolf flew at him, and would certainly have torn him to pieces, had he not great presence of mind. With one hand he seized the wolf's foaming tongue, and with the other hand laid hold of his paws; after struggling a while with the terrible creature, the tongue slipt from him, and his right thumb was bitten off; upon which,

which, notwithstanding the pain he was in, he leaped upon the wolf's back, clapt his knees fast to his flanks, and called out for help to some armed peasants who were passing by, but none of those fellows dared to advance; "well then," says he, "fire if you kill me, I forgive you." One of them fired, and three bullets went through the brave officers coat, but neither he nor the beast were wounded. Another, bolder than his comrades, seeing the cavalier was intrepid, and kept firm upon the wolf, came very near and let fly at him; the animal was mortally wounded by this shot, and after a few more furious motions expired. In this dreadful conflict, besides the losing of his right thumb, the young count's left arm was torn, and he got several bites in his legs and thighs. When he arrived at Bon le Roy, where his regiment lay, he was advised to go down with all speed to the sea; which he accordingly did.

In addition to this singular instance of the ferocity of these animals, it may be proper to add the following, which recently occurred in France last winter, while Mr. Dressing, the messenger was going with a dispatch to Lord Cornwallis---the particulars were as follows:

As Mr. Dressing, the messenger, was on his last journey to Marquis Cornwallis, he was alarmed during the night, not far from Boulogne, by the cries of the post-boy, who called out to him to "fire!" His horses stopping suddenly, he fired a pistol out of each window, thinking he had been attacked by highwaymen; but on enquiry, he found that the boy's outcry was occasioned by two wolves, one of which attempted to bite his leg, but was prevented by the jack-boots worn by French postillions: they then each seized one of the horses by the nose, and had (as appeared on examination) torn their lips off.

But as the relation of this extraordinary affair, excited some doubts, expressed in the public papers---they were intirely dissipated by the following letter from one of the gentlemen connected with the parties in France, to the Editors.

Gentlemen,

Seeing it stated in your paper that Mr. Dressing, the messenger, had been attacked by two wolves near Boulogne, and finding upon my arrival in England, that not only the fact was doubted, but that several persons insisted that no wolves were to be found in Picardy, I beg leave, through your channel, to give my testimony to this extraordinary fact.

I must premise that I am perfectly acquainted both with the person and character of that gentleman, and was an eye-witness of the dreadful situation of the postillion, Mr. D. and the young lady who accompanied him in his journies to and from Amiens, being then at Boulogne waiting for a passage to England.

The lady was taken out of the cabriole lifeless, with the fright occasioned by the sudden discharge of Mr. D's pistols; and the postillion's boots, though made of wood, hooped with iron, as is the fashion in France, were nearly bitten through. He says he is sure that one of the animals must be wounded, as the blood could be traced all the way from the road to the wood.

I am, Sir, an old traveller myself, having been in almost every part of Europe; but I never thought that wolves were to be found unless among the Alps, the Pyrenees, the back parts of Poland, and the uncultivated forests of the north; nor did I ever hear of their [illegible] their appearance, except when literally starved out of their lurking places by severe weather.

Mr. D. however, assures me, that a still more dreadful

[illegible]

accident happened to him at the conclusion of Lord Malmesbury's first mission to Paris, when his Lordship thought proper to dispatch a messenger to the Court of Vienna, to announce the termination, of that affair. He applied to the directory for a passport, which was granted accompanied by an intimation, that the road was dangerous, for that no person had travelled that way during the war. No less than eight of his Majesty's messengers who were there, shewed great reluctance at undertaking this perilous business; when M. Dressing voluntarily offered his services. This spirited act had like to have cost him dear, for, on the fifth day of his journey, about four in the morning, he was alarmed by the cries of the postillion for help, and being awoke from sleep, jumped out of his cabriole. He found the boy attacked by four huge wolves, which every moment threatened him with destruction; but he was incapable of rendering him any assistance, having left his *double barrelled* pistols in the carriage. He instantly sprung back for his fire-arms, with which he laid the four dreadful monsters dead! Now, Sir, from such *respectable authority*, it will, I presume, be impossible for any man longer to doubt, that wolves may not only be found in France, as well as in the forests of Poland and White Russia, but that they abound even in the vicinity of Paris. I am, Sir, your humble servant.

JOHN MARTIN.

Ave and Gate, Westminster, Feb. 15, 1802.

Extraordinary facts relative to preservation of HUMAN BODIES *after their decease.*

AN intelligent tourist who visited the city of Bremen, in Germany, in 1774, says, there is one peculiarity belonging

longing to this city, of the reality of which nothing but ocular demonstration could have convinced me. Under the Cathedral church, is a vaulted apartment, supported on pillars; it is near sixty paces long, and half as many broad. The light and air are constantly admitted into it by three windows, though it is several feet beneath the level of the ground. Here are five large oak coffers, each containing a corpse, which without being embalmed, have suffered no corruption. I examined them severally for near two hours. The most curious and perfect, is that of a woman. Tradition says, she was an English countess, who dying at Bremen about two hundred and fifty years ago, ordered her body to be placed in this vault uninterred, in the apprehension that her relations would cause it to be brought over to her native country. Though the muscular skin is totally dried in every part, yet so little are the features of the face or skin changed, that nothing is more certain than she was young, and even beautiful. It is a small countenance, round in its contour: the cartilage of the nose and the nostrils have undergone no alteration: her teeth are all firm in the sockets, but the lips are drawn away from over them. The cheeks are shrunk in, but yet less than I ever remember to have seen in embalmed bodies. The hair of her head is at this time more than eighteen inches long, very thick, and so fast, that I heaved the corpse up and down by it: the colour is a light brown, and soft and glossy to that of a living person. That this [illegible] seems evident from the extreme [illegible] which covers her body: but I in vain endeavoured to procure any light into her history, her name, or any other particulars, though I took no little pains for that purpose. The last Earl of the line, who [illegible] lived in that neighbourhood for forty years

years past, during which time there is not the least perceptible alteration in it. In another coffer is the body of a workman, who is said to have tumbled off the church, and was killed by the fall. His features evince this most forcibly. Extreme agony is marked in them; his mouth is wide open, and his eye-lids the same; the eyes are dried up. His breast is unnaturally distended, and his whole frame betrays a violent death.---A little child, who died of the small pox, is still more remarkable. The marks of the pustules, which have broken the skin on his hands and head, are very discernible; and one should suppose, that a body, which died of such a distemper, must contain, in a high degree, the seeds of putrefaction. ---The other corpse are likewise very extraordinary.

There are, in this vault, likewise turkeys, hawks, weasels, and other animals, which have been hung up here, from time immemorial, some very lately, and are all in the most complete preservation, and unaltered in their parts. The cause of this phenomenon is doubtless the dryness of the place where they are laid. It is in vain to seek for any other. The magistrates do not permit any fresh bodies to be brought here, and there is no other subterranean chamber which has the same property. It would have made an excellent miracle two or three centuries ago in proper hands; but now mankind are grown too wise.

Remarkable case of a Human Body found in a Bear Skin, August, 10, 1701.

A dead body was landed at Cadiz, inclosed in a long skin nearly resembling that of a bear; it was found, with several others of the same kind, in some caverns in the Canary Islands, were they are supposed to have been buried before the conquest of those islands by John de Bretancourt.

Bretancourt, a Norman, in 1417, or by Peter de Vera, a Spaniard, in 1483. The flesh of this body is perfectly preserved, but is dry, inflexible, and hard as wood, so that to the touch it seems petrified, though it is not. The features of the face are very perfect, and appear to be those of a young man; nor is that, or any other part of the body, decayed. The body is no more shrunk than if the person had not been dead above two or three days. The skin only, appears a little shrivelled, this body was sent to Madrid, to be deposited in the royal academy of surgery. The case, in which it was placed, had another small case within it, containing two or three vases, and a hand-mill, which were found in the same cavern.

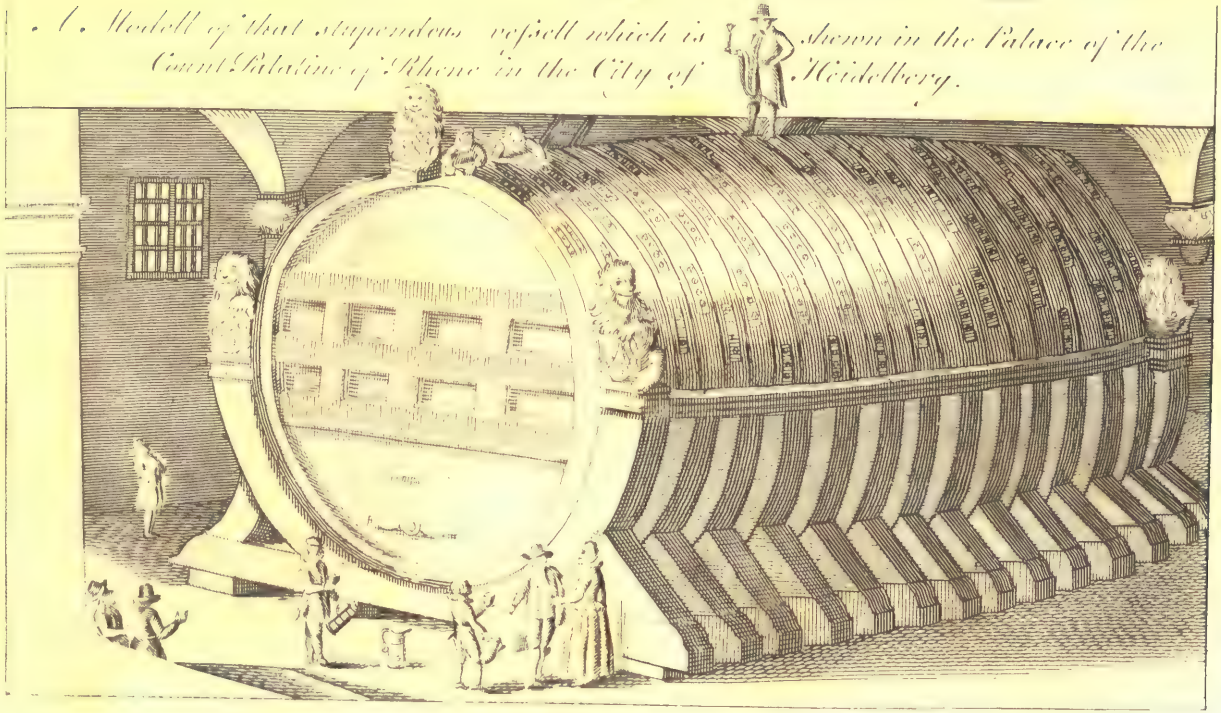
A third instance of this nature, occurs at a celebrated convent of Capuchins about a mile without the city of Palermo, in the Island of Sicily.---The burial place is a great curiosity.---It is a large subterraneous apartment, divided into commodious galleries, the walls of which are hollowed out into niches, each of them filled with dead bodies, all set on their legs, and fixed by the back to the inside of the recess. They are all dressed in their usual clothes, and form a most venerable assembly.---Their skin and muscles by a certain preparation become as dry and hard as a piece of stock-fish; and though many of the bodies have been dead more than one hundred and fifty years, none are yet reduced to skeletons.---Here the people of Palermo pay frequent visits, nor is the sight of these corpse so full of horror as might be imagined.

Description of the GREAT TUN *of Heidelberg, in Germany.*

(Vide the Plate.)

THE famous English traveller Thomas Coryat, who commenced his travels on the Continent in 1608, during the

A Model of that stupendous vessell which is shewn in the Palace of the Count Palatine of Rhene in the City of Heidelberg.



Publd as the act directs by R.S. Kirby at Paternoster Row & J. Scott St. Martins Gt. Art. Feb.y 1.1803

the reign of James I. mentions this great tun, as the strangest spectacle he saw in his travels, and the greatest size of a vessel that he had seen in his time. In the representation he gives of it, his effigy appears standing on the top of it, with a glass of Rhenish wine in his hand. It is enclosed in an apartment representing a large hall, and was nearly three years building. It is not composed of boards as other vessels of this kind are, but of great solid beams one hundred and twelve in number, and every one of them twenty-seven feet long. Each of the extremities is sixteen feet high, and the belly swelling to eighteen. It is hooped with sixteen iron hoops, so massy as to enclose eleven thousand pounds weight. Its sides are supported by five pillars each, made of timber, ornamented at the top, and the ends with figures of lions; a fair escutcheon being affixed to every image. When the person who serves out the wine, ascends to the top of it for that purpose, he goes up a flight of wooden stairs. The bung as it is called, is about the middle. The instrument he makes use of is about a foot and a half long, resembling a spout. It contains, he observes, 132 suders, 3 omes, and as many strikes. Every suder contain one tun, or 4 hogsheads; so that 132 suders, reckoning the value of the wine at 15*l.* sterling each, the whole is worth 1980*l.* 8*s.* English money. Yet, says this author, I heard it reported at Frankfort, that this famous tun was drank out in eight days, at a time when there was a certain noble meeting of princely gallants at that court. Another writer says, that in measure the Tun of Heidelberg contains 200 English tuns. Heidelberg is the capital of the Palatinate of the Rhine, and formerly belonged to the Elector of Bavaria; but though the city was nearly destroyed by the French in 1693, they spared the tun, which was first made in 1591.

Large Tuns of Modern date.

IT is in no small degree curious that this antient miracle of Germany, and the whole continent should be equalled, and even surpassed in the metropolis of England. Mr. Thomas Pennant, in his *London*, speaking of the great improvements in the making of wines and vinegar in this metropolis, observes, there is a magnificence of business in this ocean of sweets and sours, that cannot fail exciting the greatest admiration: whether we consider the number of vessels, or their size, the boasted tun at Heidelberg does not surpass them. On first entering the yard, a small distance from Mr. Coade's, Narrow Wall, Lambeth, two rise before you, covered at the top with a thatched dome; between them is a circular turret, including a winding staircase, which brings you to their summits, which are above twenty-four feet in diameter. One of these conservatories is full of sweet wine, and contains fifty-eight thousand one hundred and nine gallons; or eighteen hundred and fifteen barrels of Winchester measure. Its superb associate is full of vinegar, to the amount of fifty-six thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine gallons, or seventeen hundred and seventy-four barrels, of the same standard as the former. The famous German vessel yields even to the last by the quantity of forty barrels.

Besides these, there is a double range of lesser vessels, which hold from thirty-two thousand five hundred, to sixteen thousand nine hundred and seventy-four gallons each. After quitting this Brobdignagian scene, we pass to the acres of ground covered with common barrels: we cannot diminish our ideas so suddenly, but at first we imagined we could quaff them off as easily as Gulliver did the little hogsheads of the kingdom of Lilliput. Mr. Meux, brewer, of Liquorpond Street, has also a tun, containing four thousand five hundred barrels, besides twenty-four others, which hold thirty-five thousand barrels.

Further

Further account of the late EARTHQUAKES, *&c.*

A LETTER from Corunna, in South America, dated August 16, says—"Yesterday, by a smart shock of an earthquake, the land seemed to be agitated like the waves of the sea. The bottom of the river Oroonoko was thrown up with such violence as to snap the rudder of a vessel. The people all ran out of their houses and fell upon their knees in the open air, where they remained a considerable time. A great deal of new land has been brought to view all along the right side of the river, while another tract, about 100 feet long and 40 broad, has disappeared with several buildings thereon, and a lake sprung up in its place: several trees were torn up. A second shock was attended with greater violence, and the houses in the town which still remained, were observed to rock like a ship in a storm. At eight in the evening there was a third shock, less violent than the preceding; but though every house was damaged more or less, very few people were missing. During the storm, the fish were observed to rise upon the surface of the river, and endeavour to gain the ocean."

At Neustadt, in Lower Austria, another shock of an earthquake was felt in the night between the 29th and 30th of October, stronger than the first. It lasted six seconds only, and damaged but a few houses.

From Petersburgh, Nov. 23, it appears, that the earthquake of the 26th of October, extended over the greatest part of Russia. One side of the river Oka was strongly agitated, and the other not in the least affected.

At Falmouth in the afternoon of Sunday, December 26, the morning was most remarkable in its appearance, the agitation of the wind and waves, the motion of the clouds, &c. having long portended some coming change, about noon came on a most violent gust of wind, tornado,

nado, or whirlwind, which lasted about two minutes, carrying every thing before it. A barn that had lately been erected was removed to a distance of six feet from its former situation; several houses were unroofed, and a great number of chimnies and slate, was blown down, several trees torn up, &c. It fortunately only took a small part of the town, or the damage must have been immense. A new vane eighteen feet in length, lately erected on the steeple, was bent quite double.

A Codicil to the last Will and Testament of JAMES CLEGG, *Conjurer.*

BE it known to all men, by these presents, That I, James Clegg, of Broad Lane, within Castleton, in the parish of Rochdale, and county of Lancaster, conjurer; having made my last will and testament, bearing date the 18th of February, 1749, do hereby codicil, confirm, and ratify my said will; and if I die a natural death, i. e. elude the gallows, and within two miles of Shaw Chapel, then I will that my executors John Collier, and Paul Greenwood, come to my house the day following, and with the advice and assistance of James Worral, order my funeral, as follow:

I. I will that they invite to my funeral, sixty of my friends, or best acquaintance, and also five fidlers; to be there exactly at two o'clock.

II. That no woman be invited; no man that wears a white cap, or apron, that no tobacco or snuff be there, to prevent my sneezing.

III. That they provide sixty-two spiced cakes, value ten shillings; and twenty shillings worth of the best ale that is within two miles; allowing the best ruby nose present, Roger Taylor, and John Booth, to be judges.

IV.

IV. That if my next relations think a wooden jump too chargeable, then I will that my executors cause me to be dressed in my roast meat cloaths, lay me on a bier, stangs, or the like; give all present a sprig of rosemary, hollies, or gorses, and a cake: that no tears be shed, but be merry for two hours.

V. Then all shall drink a gill bumper, and the fidlers play Britons Strike Home, whilst they are bringing me out, and covering me. This shall be about five minutes before the cavalcade begins; which shall move in the high road to Shaw Chapel in the following order, *viz.:* The best fidler of the five shall lead the van, the other four following after, two and two, playing The Conjurer goes Home, in the aforesaid tune. Then the bier and attendants, none riding on horseback, but as Hudibras did to the stocks, i. e. face to tail, except Mr. George Stansfield of Sowerby, (which privelege I allow him for reasons best known to myself.) Then the Curate of Shaw Chapel shall bring up the rear, dressed in his pontificalibus, and riding on an ass; the which, if he duly and honestly perform, and also read the usual office, my executors shall nem. con. pay him twenty one shillings.

VI. If the singers at Shaw, meet me fifty yards from the chapel, and sing the anthem; beginning O clap your Hands, &c. pay them five shillings.

VII. Next, I will be laid near the Huge ruins of James Woolfenden, late landlord of Shaw Chapel; which done, pay the sexton half a-crown.

VIII. Then let all go to the alehouse I most frequented, and eat, drink, and be merry, till the shot amounts to thirty shillings; the fidlers playing, The Conjurer's gone Home, with other tunes at discretion, to which I leave them: and then pay the fidlers two shillings and sixpence each.

IX. If

IX. If my next relations think it worth their cost and pains to lay a stone over me, then I will that John Collier of Milnrow, cut the following epitaph on it :

Here Conjurer Clegg beneath this stone,
By his best friends was laid,
Weep, O ye fidlers, now he's gone,
Who lov'd the tweetling trade!
Mourn all ye brewers of good ale,
Sellers of books and news;
But smile, ye jolly priests, he's pale,
Who grudg'd your pow'r and dues.

Further, As I have some qualities and worldly goods not disposed of by my said last will, I do give and devise, as follows; that is to say, I give unto the Rochdale Parish Methodists all my religion, and books of free-thinking, as believing they'll be useful and very necessary emoluments.

Item, I give unto any one of that whimsical sect, who is sure the Devil is in him, my slice of the liver in Tobit's fish, which my ancestors have kept pickled up above two thousand years; being certain that a small slice fried, will drive Belzebub himself, either upwards or downwards, out of the closest made Methodist in his Majesty's dominions.

Item, I give unto any three of the aforesaid Methodist's who are positive that they have a church in their bellies, my small set of squirrel-bells to hang in the steeple; being apprehensive that a set of the size of *Great Tom of Lincoln,* would prove detrimental to a fabric of such an airy and tottering foundation.

Item, I give my forty-five minute sand glass on which is painted Old Time sleeping, unto that clergyman living within three miles of my house, who is most noted for preaching

preaching long-winded, tautologizing sermons: provided he never turn it twice at one heat.

Item, I leave all my spring-traps, flying nets, and all my other valuable utensils whatsoever, belonging to that new invented and ingenious art of cuckow-catching, unto my generous, honest, and open hearted friend, Mr. Benjamin Bunghole, late of Rochdale, being thoroughly satisfied of his good inclination, and great capacity of the proper use of them.

Item, I give unto one Timothy Bobbin, wheresoever he may be found, a pamphlet entitled, a View of the Lancashire Dialect; being fully persuaded few others capable of reading, or making any sense of it.

Item, I give all my humilty, good nature, benevolence, and hospitality, with all my other good qualities whatsoever, not before disposed of, unto that person in the parish of Rochdale who can eat the most raw onions without crying.

Lastly, I will that this codicil be, and be adjudged to be, part of my said last Will and Testament, as fully as if the same had been there inserted.

In witness whereof I have hereunto fixed my hand and seal, this 24th day of May, in the year 1751.

JAMES CLEGG.

Witness,

Robert Lees.
Joshua Warren.

Particular Account of FAIRROP OAK *of immense Size, and* DAMORY'S *Oak, near Bedford, in Dorsetshire.*

IN a glade of Hainhault-forest in Essex, about a mile from Barkinside, stands an oak, which has been known through many centuries, by the name of Fairlop. The tradition of the country traces it half way up the Christian

tian æra. It is still a noble tree, though it has now suffered greatly from the depredations of time. About a yard from the ground, where its rough fluted stem is thirty-six feet in circumference, it divides into eleven vast arms; yet not in the horizontal manner of an oak, but rather in that of a beech. Beneath its shade, which overspreads an area of three hundred feet in circuit, an annual fair has long been held, on the 2d of July; and no booth is suffered to be erected beyond the extent of its boughs. But as their extremities are now become sapless, and age is yearly curtailing their length, the liberties of the fair seem to be in a desponding condition. The honour, however, is great:—but honours are often accompanied with inconveniences; and Fairlop has suffered from its honourable distinctions. In the feasting that attends a fair, fires are often necessary; and no places seemed so proper to make them in, as the hollow cavities formed by the heaving roots of the tree. This practice has brought a speedier decay on Fairlop, than it might otherwise have suffered.

Not far from Blanford, in Dosetshire, stood very lately a tree, known by the name of Damory's oak. About five or six centuries ago, it was probably in a state of maturity. At the ground its circumference was sixty-eight feet; and seventeen feet above the ground its diameter was four yards. As this vast trunk decayed, it became hollow, forming a cavity, which was fifteen feet wide, and seventeen feet high, capable of holding twenty men. During the civil wars, and till after the restoration, this cave was regularly inhabited by an old man, who sold ale in it. In the violent storm in the year 1703, it suffered greatly, many of its noblest limbs having been torn from it. But it was still so grand a ruin, above forty years after, that some of its branches were seventy-five feet high; and extended seventy-two. In the year 1755, when it was fit for nothing but firewood, it was sold for fourteen pounds.

The

The Royal Palace *of the* Escurial;

A Modern Wonder of the World.

This superb edifice, so called from a village of the same name in the neighbourhood of which it stands, at the distance of twenty-two miles from Madrid, is not only the most magnificent palace in Spain, but perhaps in Europe, and is reckoned by the Spaniards one of the Wonders of the world. This palace, including a monastery, church, college, library, and other buildings, was erected by Philip the Second, in memory of a victory obtained by his forces over the French, near St. Quintin, in Picardy, in the year 1557, on St. Laurence's day, to the honour of which saint, the king made a vow of building this superb edifice, in case his troops came off victorious.

The whole pile is a vast square, about 3000 feet in compass, and consists of a fine grey stone, dug out of a neighbouring mountain, and so well polished, that it looks like marble. The windows in the front, including those of a pavilion at each corner, amount to upwards of 1100; but those within are computed at as many thousands; the principal front, which faces the west, has three noble gates, particularly that in the middle, which leads to the church. This is a large and beautiful structure, built in imitation of St. Peter's church at Rome. It is 364 feet long, 230 broad, and of a proportionable height; the roof, which is finely gilt and painted, is supported by columns of the Doric order, dividing it into six stately aisles, with forty-eight chapels and altars, besides the grand one at the east end, which is magnificent beyond description. The tabernacle of the great altar is of porphyry, wrought with the point of a diamond; it is made in the form of a cupola, supported by eighteen columns of agate, and adorned with gold and precious stones. The altar itself is of fine black marble, and behind it the wall is lined with a square piece of porphyry, wherein the inside of the church may be seen as

plain as in a looking glass. It is astonishing to view the sacristy or vestry, filled with the vestments, chalices, and other costly vessels and utensils belonging to the church. Here are a great number of statues of saints, &c. of excellent workmanship, and several of the smaller sort are of gold and silver. The paintings, which are reckoned above 1600, are many of them large, and done by the most eminent masters. Underneath the grand chapel is a large and beautiful mausoleum, or burial-place for the royal family, which is called the pantheon, being a rotunda, built after the manner of the pantheon at Rome. The descent to it consists of more than fifty marble steps, and the gate that opens into it is of brass, gilt, and of very curious workmanship. The dome is lined with jasper, intermingled with little plates of brass, and the pavement is likewise composed of squares of jasper and marble, forming a star in the middle. Facing the entrance is a kind of chapel or oratory, adorned in the most sumptuous manner imaginable, particularly with a crucifix, enriched with diamonds and other precious stones. In the middle of this noble vault is a large brazen candlestick, supported by figures of angels, and the four evangelists, of the same metal: and in twenty-six niches, which are embellished with the richest ornaments, are placed as many urns or sepulchres of black marble, thirteen or fourteen whereof are already filled with the deceased kings and queens of Spain, and the rest wait to receive the remains of succeeding monarchs. As to the royal apartments, or what may be properly called the palace, a particular description of them would fill a large volume. It will be therefore necessary to observe in general, that these apartments are large, stately, furnished in the most magnificent manner, and adorned with every thing that is rich and beautiful. Throughout the whole, there is a vast variety of marble, jasper, and other curious stones, carved by the best masters, and in the grandest taste; and all the halls, galleries, staircases, &c. are filled with excellent paintings.

The

The monastery, in which there are two hundred religious monks, of the order of St. Jerome, consists of five courts or squares, each of which is adorned with a marble fountain. The grand cloister, which is 210 feet square, is paved with black and white marble, as are likewise the walks of the garden within it; and at the bottom of it is a beautiful chapel in the form of a dome, open on all sides, and supported by marble columns. The refectory or hall, where the religious take their meals, is very long, and adorned with fine paintings; amongst which, there is one representing Charles the Fifth and Philip the Second, carried to Heaven by angels. There are several infirmaries for the sick belonging to this monastery, two grand apartments to entertain strangers, nine kitchens, above forty rooms under ground for offices of divers kinds, and eleven vast cisterns, that will hold 200 tons of water.

The college, where a number of young students are maintained at the king's expence, is a very handsome building; and the library is, in all respects, answerable to the rest of this noble edifice. It contains a fine collection of books in all languages and faculties, both printed and manuscript, disposed in a very elegant manner. The floor is beautifully paved with marble, and the ceiling adorned with admirable paintings, representing the liberal arts and sciences. The books, which are about 100,000, are placed in five galleries, one above another, all finely painted by Titian, and other celebrated masters.

But to give the reader some general idea of the surprising grandeur of this palace, it must be observed, that, according to F. Francisco de los Santos, who wrote a description of the Escurial in a large folio volume, it would take up more than four days to go through all its rooms and apartments; the length of the way being reckoned thirty-three Spanish leagues, which is above 120 English miles; and besides the many thousand windows in this vast pile,

Alvarez

Alvarez de Colmenar, in his *Delices de l'Espagne*, affirms, that there are 14,000 doors belonging to it.—Historians agree, that if this palace is not the most elegant, it is certainly the most magnificent residence in Europe.

INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF THE EARTHQUAKE AT LISBON, DESCRIBED BY AN EYE-WITNESS.

(*Continued from page* 21.)

On a sudden I heard a general outcry. "The sea is coming in, we shall be all lost."—Upon this, turning my eyes towards the river, which in that place is near four miles broad, I could perceive it heaving and swelling in a most unaccountable manner, as no wind was stirring; in an instant there appeared, at some small distance, a large body of water, rising as it were like a mountain, it came on foaming and roaring, and rushed towards the shore with such impetuosity, that we all immediately ran for our lives, as fast as possible; many were actually swept away, and the rest above their waist in water at a good distance from the banks. For my own part, I had the narrowest escape, and should certainly have been lost, had I not grasped a large beam that lay on the ground, till the water returned to its channel, which it did almost at the same instant, with equal rapidity. As there now appeared at least as much danger from the sea as the land, and I scarce knew whither to retire for shelter, I took a sudden resolution of returning back with my cloaths all dropping, to the area of St. Paul's; here I stood some time, and observed the ships tumbling and tossing about, as in a violent storm; some had broken their cables, and were carried to the other side of the Tagus; others were whirled round with incredible swiftness; several large boats were turned keel upwards; and all this without any wind, which seemed the more astonishing. It was at the time of which I am now speaking, that the fine new quay, built entirely of rough marble,

at

at an immense expense, was entirely swallowed up, with all the people on it, who had fled thither for safety, and had reason to think themselves out of danger in such a place: at the same time a great number of boats and small vessels anchored near it, (all likewise full of people, who had retired thither for the same purpose,) were all swallowed up, as in a whirlpool, and never more appeared.

I had not been long in the area of St. Paul's, when I felt the third shock, which though somewhat less violent than the two former, the sea rushed in again, and retired with the same rapidity, and I remained up to my knees in water, though I had gotten upon a small eminence at some distance from the river, with the ruins of several intervening houses to break its force. At this time I took notice the waters retired so impetuously, that some vessels were left quite dry, which rode in seven fathom water: the river thus continued alternately rushing on and retiring several times together, in such sort, that it was justly dreaded, Lisbon would now meet the same fate, which a few years ago had befallen the city of Lima; and, no doubt, had this place lain open to the sea, and the force of the waves not been somewhat broken by the winding of the Bay, the lower parts of it at least would have been totally destroyed.

I was now in such a situation, that I knew not which way to turn myself; if I remained there, I was in danger from the sea; if I retired further from the shore, the houses threatened certain destruction; and, at last, I resolved to go to the Mint, which being a low and very strong building, had received no considerable damage, except in some of the apartments towards the river. The party of soldiers, which is every day set there on guard, had all deserted the place, and the only person that remained, was the commanding officer, a nobleman's son, of about seventeen or eighteen years of age, whom I found standing at the gate.

As I thought it would be the height of rashness to venture back through the same narrow street I had so providentially

dentially escaped from, I judged it safest to return over the ruins of St. Paul's to the river side, as the water now seemed a little agitated. From hence I proceeded, with some hazard, to the large space before the Irish convent of Corpo Santo, which had been thrown down, and buried a great number of people who were hearing mass, besides some of the friars; the rest of the community were standing in the area, looking, with dejected countenances, towards the ruins: from this place I took my way to the back street leading to the Palace, having the ship-yard on one side, but found the further passage, opening into the principal street, stopped up, by the ruins of the Opera-house, one of the solidest and most magnificent buildings of the kind in Europe, and just finished at a prodigious expense; a vast heap of stones, each of several tons weight, had entirely blocked up the front of Mr. Bristow's house, which was opposite to it; and Mr. Ward, his partner, told me, the next day, that he was just at that instant going out at the door, and had actually set one foot over the threshold, when the west-end of the Opera-house fell down, and had he not in a moment started back, he should have been crushed into a thousand pieces.

From hence I turned back, and attempted getting by the other way into the great square of the palace, twice as large as Lincoln's-inn-fields, one side of which had been taken up by the noble quay I spoke of, now no more; but this passage was likewise obstructed by the stones fallen from the great arched gateway: I could not help taking particular notice, that all the apartments wherein the Royal Family used to reside, were thrown down; and themselves, without some extraordinary miracle, must unavoidably have perished, had they been there at the time of the shock.—Finding this passage impracticable, I turned to the other arched-way which led to the new Square of the Palace, not the eighth part so spacious as the other, one side of which was taken up by the Patriarchal Church, which also served

for

for the Chapel Royal, and the other by a most magnificent building of modern architecture, probably, indeed, by far the most so, not yet completely finished; as to the former, the roof and part of the front walls were thrown down, and the latter, notwithstanding their solidity, had been so shaken, that several large stones fell from the top, and every part seemed disjointed. The Square was full of coaches, chariots, chaises, horses, and mules, deserted by their drivers and attendants, as well as their owners.

The nobility, gentry, and clergy, who were assisting at divine service when the earthquake began, fled away with the utmost precipitation; every one where his fears carried him, leaving the splendid apparatus of the numerous altars, to the mercy of the first comer: but this did not so much affect me, as the distress of the poor animals, who seemed sensible of their hard fate; some few were killed, others wounded, but the greater part which had received no hurt, were left there to starve.

From this Square, the way led to my friend's lodgings, through a long steep and narrow street: the new scenes of horror I met with here, exceed all description; nothing could be heard but sighs and groans, I did not meet with a soul in the passage who was not bewailing the death of his nearest relations and dearest friends, or the loss of all his substance; I could hardly take a single step without treading on the dead, or the dying: in some places lay coaches, with their masters, horses, and riders, *almost* crushed in pieces; here, mothers with infants in their arms; there, ladies richly dressed, priests, friars, gentlemen, mechanics, either in the same condition, or just expiring; some had their backs or thighs broken; others vast stones on their breasts; some lay almost buried in the rubbish, and crying out in vain to the passengers for succour, were left to perish with the rest.

At length I arrived at the spot opposite to the house where my friend, for whom I was so anxious, resided; and

and finding this, as well as the contiguous buildings thrown down, (which made me give him over for lost,) I now thought of nothing else but saving my own life in the best manner I could, and in less than an hour got to a public house, kept by one Morley, near the English burying ground, about half a mile from the city, where I still remain, with a great number of my countrymen, as well as Portuguese, in the same wretched circumstances, having almost ever since lain on the ground, and never once within doors, with scarcely any covering to defend me from the inclemency of the night air, which, at this time, is exceeding sharp and piercing.—Perhaps you may think the present doleful subject here concluded; but, alas! the horrors of the first of November, are sufficient to fill a volume.

As soon as it grew dark, another scene presented itself, little less shocking than those already described—the whole city appeared in a blaze, which was so bright that I could easily see to read by it. It may be said, without exaggeration, it was on fire at least in an hundred different places at once, and thus continued burning for six days together, without intermission, or the least attempt being made to stop its progress.

It went on consuming every thing the earthquake had spared, and the people were so dejected and terrified, that few or none had courage enough to venture down, to save any part of their substance; every one had his eyes turned towards the flames, and stood looking on with silent grief, which was only interrupted by the cries and shrieks of women and children calling on the saints and angels for succour, whenever the earth began to tremble, which was so often this night, and indeed I may say, ever since, that the tremors, more or less, did not cease for a quarter of an hour together.

(To be concluded in our next.)

WONDERFUL WORKS OF ART.

"SIR, KNOWING that many very minute objects have been performed by art, I transmit you the following hand-bill, as it was actually published by Mr. Boverick, in the Strand, in the year 1745, and another nearly of the same date. Your's, &c.—J. J. B."

To be seen at Mr. BOVERICK'S, *Watchmaker, at the* DIAL, *facing Old Round Court, near the New Exchange, in the Strand, at One Shilling each Person,*

The little furniture of a dining-room; consisting of a dining-table, with a cloth laid, two figures seated as at dinner; a footman waiting; a card table, which opens with a drawer in it; frame and castors; looking glass; two dozen of dishes, twenty dozen of plates, thirty dozen of spoons; and twelve skeleton-back chairs with claw feet.—All the above particulars are contained in a cherry-stone.

A landau, which opens and shuts by springs, hanging on braces, with four persons sitting therein; a crane-neck carriage, the wheels turning on their axles, coachman's box, &c. of ivory; together with six horses and their furniture; a coachman on the box, a dog between his legs, the reins in one hand, and whip in the other; two footmen behind, and a postilion on the leading horse, in their proper liveries: all so minute as to be drawn along by a flea.—It has been shewn to the Royal Society, and several persons of distinction.

The curious little four-wheel open chaise, with the figure of a man in it; all made of ivory, drawn by a flea, which performs all the offices of a large chaise, as running of the wheels, locking, &c.; weighing but one grain.—Shewn to the Royal Family, and several of the Nobility and Gentry.

A flea, chained by a chain of 200 links, with a padlock and key, curiously wrought; the chain and flea, padlock and key, weighing but one-third of a grain.

A camel, that passes through the eye of a middle-size needle.

And a curious pair of steel scissars, so minute, as six pair may be wrapped up in the wing of a fly.—The said scissars cut a large horse-hair.

To be seen from nine in the morning till eight at night; and those that please to see them at their house, may be waited upon, on Thursdays, at the same hours.

We can inform our Correspondent, that the particulars here asserted of the flea, are confirmed by the authority of the ingenious and indefatigable author of *Animal Biography*, see vol. iii. page 489.

Without a tedious long oration—here is another information
To all that's curious in the nation.

THAT a poor, poetical, penurious mortal, who has been a long time out of employment, and whom it has pleased Heaven to bless with a wife and three small children, the senior not four years old; being, by the cruel destiny of the planets drove impetuously to the gaping jaws of Destruction, all on a sudden set his invention to work, and has made what is quite astonishing to behold, viz.—A tea table, tea board, dozen tea cups and saucers, slop bason, sugar dish, tun, bottle, funnel, fifteen drinking glasses, five punch bowls, ten rummers, pestle and mortar, with two bowls, and two sets of ninepins.

What most amazes is, to see them all contained in the compass of a common Barcelona filberd shell; yet so exquisite is the workmanship, that the eye can clearly discover them without the help of optic glasses.—They are made of the finest ivory, polished exceeding well, and will bear the inspection of the most curious artist that the world can boast of; so that the virtuosi may here at once both satisfy their curiosity, and relieve a destitute son of Apollo. —They are made by no foreigner, but a poor native of England—

England—this is no quart-bottle scheme, nor lifeguard-man's lying prophecy—no pun, no ridiculous bombast—no empty puff, nor scandalous humbug—but what has a foundation that is able to bear it up to the latest posterity.

N. B. They are shewn by the inventor and maker, who is well known by the name of *Lancelot Povertystruck*, at his lodgings, up one pair of stairs, at Mrs. Kimmister's, facing the Lamb in Salisbury-street, in the Strand; from ten in the morning to eight at night, for a few days only, by reason of his going to remove, at so easy a charge as one shilling each.—They will not be advertised.

All that can such a trifle spare—undoubtedly will soon repair
To LANCELOT, and ope' their purse, and own they've spent a shilling worse.

To the above we may add, that, among other instances of art in miniature, the Emperor Charles V. had a watch in the jewel of his ring, and King James I. of England, another of the same kind, both made in Germany.—But since the days of Tompion, the first English watchmaker of eminence, a good author observes, the works of English mechanics, are seen in the palaces of the greatest princes of the known world.

In the cabinet of curiosities at Dresden, it is related by Dr. Nugent, in his Grand Tour, there is a cherry-stone, upon the surface of which, an hundred and twenty heads are carved.—There is also an ostrich made out of its own shell, with golden feathers; a purse of incombustible linen; cups made of mother-o'-pearl; emeralds an inch in diameter, as they grow on the rock; and several unpolished topazes, ten inches in diameter.—There is also a great variety of clock-work; as a horseman riding; a ship under sail; a centaur running and shooting; and a crab crawling on the table.—The stables likewise at Dresden, are furnished with iron racks and copper mangers.

TAILOR-

EXTRAORDINARY INCIDENTS:

AMONG others that have not, nor probably never might have found their way into the public papers; in the course of last winter a circumstance occurred, that occasioned no small degree of speculation, near Spital-square, Bishopsgate-street.—In the emptying of a cess-pool belonging to the house of a respectable inhabitant, a human skeleton was found, supposed to have lain in that situation near thirty years.—And about that time, it was recollected by some of the oldest inhabitants in the neighbourhood, that a young man, the heir of the estate, was suddenly missing, and never after heard of.

A fortunate Discovery.—There was very lately an eminent tradesman in Oxford-street, or Tyburn-road, whose father owed a sudden rise in his life and fortune, entirely to his honesty towards a singular character, who lodged in his house, in Hanover-yard, near that street, about thirty years since. The person here spoken of, rented a single room under this tradesman, into which he never suffered any person to enter upon any account whatever. In fact, though then in years, he was himself very seldom at home, as he was a regular attendant at the Stock Exchange every day. —And besides this, was so exceedingly reserved, as scarcely ever to be seen by any person at home, excepting when he came in at night and went out in the morning. In the payment of his rent, the old man was scrupulously exact, never neglecting it an hour on the evening it became due, every week. But after lodging upwards of nine years in this house, without ever having a single follower to enquire after him; and being one morning missed by his landlord, in not coming down stairs as usual, he went up, fearing he might be ill, and knocked at his door.—But no manner of answer being returned, after deliberating within himself a few hours longer, and then coming to the resolution of bursting

bursting open the door, he did so, and, as he expected, found his tenant lifeless and cold. That he was possessed of great property had long been supposed by the landlord, who, though a very poor tradesman himself, and incumbered with a large family, without searching his room, or a bureau that stood in it, resolved to go early the next morning to a General, who then lived near Cavendish-square; whom, from the sameness of the name, &c. he, as it afterwards appeared, rightly conjectured was certainly some relative to his deceased lodger. But having arrived at the house, and owing to his appearance, with some difficulty gained admittance into the great man's hall, he found it no easy matter to persuade his footman, that he had business which required his speaking to the General in person.—He was repeatedly told he must send his message up, and as repeatedly refused it.—At length, as the General was probably told, that there was a ragged or mean looking fellow below, *who must see him*—he came down into the hall, when, eyeing him from top to toe, "Well, good man," said he, (without offering to take him into any other apartment, or out of the hearing of the servants,) "What is your business?" "*Private,*" said the tradesman—"*Private!*" replied the General, (whose surprise seemed kindling into a degree of alarm,) "well then, follow me?" "You have," said the tradesman, "a relation of the name of St—n—pe, apparently in low circumstances:"—the General pausing—"He is," continued the tradesman, "certainly a relation." "There is," said the General in reply, "a dirty fellow in the city of our name; he *wants* I suppose?—I can say nothing to you." "He wants nothing, Sir," continued the tradesman, "unless it be an heir to his *property*." "*Property*," rejoined the General, "be explicit—" "Sir," continued the other, "Mr. —— has lodged in one of my upper rooms these nine years; he has died suddenly, and supposing

posing you to be his relation, I am come to inform you, that his corpse, as well as his cash, will remain sacred and untouched by me till you chuse to inspect it." The General seemed struck with surprise; first bid his butler give that good man some refreshment, and then ordering his chariot to be made ready, got into it with the poor tradesman, and drove immediately to Hanover-yard, where he not only found every thing as it had been described, but as the most happy and convincing proof of the tradesman's honesty, in one of the drawers of the bureau, the deceased had left, written in Latin, an exact account and inventory of every article in his room, and also directions to find the secret drawers, where property, and documents of the same were deposited, to the amount of £60,000. Not more surprised than gratified with the extraordinary integrity of this poor man, the General determining he should not lose his reward, immediately took and furnished a house in Oxford-road, for him, stocked his shop, and recommended him to all his friends. Beyond all this, he had the satisfaction to see his bounty had been well bestowed.—A course of industry and sobriety marked the conduct of the father, and has since descended to the tradesman's son.

Another instance of integrity, but not so fortunate in its issue, came within the knowledge of a person of veracity, about twenty years since:—Occasionally employing two shoemakers, Davis and Lindsey, of Hand Court, Holborn; who were men in years, and lived together, he had frequent opportunities (as old age is always talkative) of hearing them complain of the hardness of the times, merely because they had remembered when some articles of food had been still cheaper than they then were! However, being at that advanced age, when the eyesight generally begins to fail, he gave them credit for having some cause at least for complaint; heard them patiently, and endeavoured to divert or condole with them, just as circumstances offered. As a

contrast between these two characters, here let it be observed, that both of them were professedly religious, both sober—both sparing. One of them was really so, from absolute necessity; as not being so ready a workman as the other, he was known to make three or four shillings a week less. He was unable to earn more than nine shillings a week, with his utmost exertions.—But though an Antinomian by profession, it was well known he had long been a considerable helper in small sums of money to a poor family, which had been left without a father.—But the bounties of his copartner and fellow-workman, if any, were kept a secret; he, however, kept equal pace, and often exceeded the other in occasional complaints of hard times, dearness of provisions, &c. It should have been observed, that both these old murmurers had been single many years, if not all their life-time. The latter, however, dying suddenly, a secret he had constantly retained in his breast, could then be concealed no longer.—He had much property, principally consisting of money and plate, hid between the lath and plaister of the walls of his garret.—He had neither the time, nor the disposition to make a will; therefore, to his faithful and sympathizing friend, he had not left any thing.—The latter, notwithstanding, knowing of an apothecary, a nephew of the deceased, at some distance from him, honestly acquainted him with the circumstances of his uncle's sudden death and property; and assisting him in the search, found hidden articles to the amount of £300, which, in all probability, no other person could have obtained.—However, notwithstanding this poor man's fidelity, his loss of time, his known circumstances, and the long habits of intimacy he had maintained with the deceased, the ungrateful heir never rewarded him with a single guinea; nor even offered him the accommodation of a cloak or a hatband, to attend the funeral.

In October 1787, a Mr. Duplex, a young gentleman, being

being on his return from Margate, took a boat on the Thames, almost as soon as he left the hoy, near the Tower, into which he put his trunk, and was coming on shore, when being boarded by several persons, calling themselves revenue officers, they carried it alongside a sloop lying at anchor very near, and under pretence of searching it, carried it down into the cabin. Mr. D—— followed the chest without any interruption, and saw it searched; but to his great surprise, he found the vessel in motion, and was, in a very short time, nearly abreast of Greenwich College.—Just at this time he was told by the crew, that as he could not be put ashore, he might as well make himself contented; and though he had five guineas in his pockets, they never offered to deprive him of them; however, his shirts they took from his chest, and they were worn by them in common. From this time, and during the whole term of three months that he remained with them, he was constantly confined to the cabin, from whence he could frequently hear part of the crew leaving the vessel, and when they came on board again, he thought they always brought hampers, boxes, &c. with them. Their food, the same as his own, was always ship beef, with grog, &c.—At length being permitted to go on deck, he found the vessel upon the coast of North Wales, in the Bay of Beaumaris, and the man at the helm, telling him he might leave the vessel, he gladly availed himself of a fisherman's smack coming alongside, and who agreed to put him on board a Welch sloop, then under way, and bound to Dublin.—From Dublin, Mr. D—— finding himself quite at liberty, soon contrived to get to London, where he found the Thames had been dragged for his body; and that a reward had been offered by his friends for finding him, dead or alive. This statement was given from one of Mr. D.'s friends, who has often heard him relate the particulars of this extraordinary adventure.

EXTRAORDINARY DELIVERANCE.

THE wooden bridge over the Usk, in Wales, is remarkable for its construction, which is similar to that erected by Cæsar, over the Rhine; and it may perhaps be considered, as formed on the plan adopted by the Romans.—The great floods to which the Usk is subject, have sometimes carried away part of this bridge. An accident of this kind, in October 1772, occasioned a singular event, which would scarcely obtain credit, were it not authenticated by the most respectable testimony.—"As Mrs. Williams, wife of Mr. Williams, brazier, was returning from the village of Caerleon to the town, at eleven o'clock at night, with a candle and lantern, the violence of the current forced away four piers, and a considerable part of the bridge.—On a fragment of this mass, consisting of an entire room, with the beams, posts, and flooring, she was hurried down the river, but preserved sufficient presence of mind to support herself by the railing. On arriving near St. Julian's, the candle was extinguished; she immediately screamed out for help, and was heard by several persons, who started out of their beds to assist her; but the violence of the stream had already hurried her out of their reach. During this time she had little apprehension, as she entertained hopes of being delivered by the boatmen of Newport; her expectations were increased by the numerous lights which she discerned in the houses, and she accordingly redoubled her cries for assistance, though without effect. The fragment on which she stood, being broken to pieces against a pier of Newport bridge, she fortunately bestrode a beam, and after being detained some minutes by the eddies of the bridge, was rapidly hurried along towards the sea. In this perilous situation, she resigned herself to her approaching fate, and addressing herself to Heaven, exclaimed, '*O, Lord! I trust in thee, thou alone canst save me!*'

About a mile from Newport, she discerned a glimmering light in a barge moored near the shore; and, redoubling her cries, was heard by the master of the vessel. After hailing her, and learning her situation, he cried out, 'Keep up your spirits, and you will soon be out of danger;' then leaping into the boat, with one of his men, rowed towards the place from whence the screams proceeded; but some time elapsed before he overtook her, at a considerable distance from the anchorage of his barge. The night was so dark, that they could not discern each other, and the surf swelling violently, the master repeated his exhortations, charged her to be calm, and not attempt to quit her station. Fortunately a sudden dispersion of the clouds, enabled him to lash the beam fore and aft to the boat. At this moment, however, her presence of mind forsook her, and eagerly attempting to throw herself forward, she was checked by the oaths of the seamen, who were at length enabled to heave her into the boat, but could not disengage themselves from the beam, till they had almost reached the mouth of the Usk. This being effected, not without great difficulty, they rowed to the shore, and embayed themselves till the first dawn of the morning, when they conveyed her in the boat to Newport. Though Mrs. Williams was in an advanced state of pregnancy, she received so little injury from this perilous accident, that after a few hours repose, she returned to Caerleon.—The disinterested conduct of the master and boatman, ought not to be omitted: notwithstanding the peril to which they were exposed, and their active exertions, they repeatedly declined the liberal recompence offered by Mr. Williams."

JOHN RICHARDS, A BLIND MAN—A SINGULAR CHARACTER.

As satirists of all ages, with writers of every description, who have much claim to a knowledge of human nature, have paid so much attention to the mendicant tribe, as frequently



JOHN RICHARDS.

Pubd. as the Act directs by R. Shirley 1st Paternoster Row & J. Scott Hartwell Court Aldgate

quently to attempt the delineation of their characters, and even to decypher their slang or lingo, in which Mr. Francis Grose has eminently succeeded, following their steps; especially as the person before us had some time since caught the attention of an artist; to aid the pencil with the pen, we probably need only to remind our readers, that, till within a very short period, they may have recollected the above figure very frequently about the streets of this metroplis; his motion continually upon the see-saw, ballads in his hand, and his tones between high and low, the former resembling the braying of an ass, and the latter the grunting of a hog; his head was always in motion, and might have reminded one of Sir Archy Macsycophant's *booing* and *booing:* his feet, however, were so slow in their progress, that he would be sometimes nearly a day in pacing a street's length. The charity he had bestowed upon him, was certainly not given him as a retaining fee; but rather to get rid of a dissonance and a discord, which, together with his own squalid figure, were as disgusting as can well be imagined. Like several of his fraternity, not a word he uttered was intelligible; but with all these disagreeable qualities, as he had a bag slung before him for alms, he had certainly established *a walk*, where he collected what has been called *skran* and *brass knocker;* a portion or the whole of which, is generally disposed of on an evening, at the public houses used by the mendicant or begging tribe, to poor women, who come there for the purpose of purchasing, while these pretended objects of charity order fowls, geese, &c.; and, at one time, frightened one of their betters, an Alderman and Brewer of London, who accidentally dropped into their company; by calling for an Alderman hung in chains, for their supper! viz. a turkey roasted with pork sausages! At these evening meetings, when all restraints, viz. lame legs, bandages, crutches, patches, and plaisters are laid aside, and the pleasures of the bowl are sought to drown the cares of the day, this John

Richards,

Richards, who was regarded by his *competitors* in the *cringe* as a *queer file*, was nevertheless so far from a bad *chaunt* or singer, that he was frequently called upon from the chair to amuse the company. But he was not the only one, who, after being in the practice of a self-denying silence all day, rioted in a contrary extreme at night.—For, at the evening meetings, at which he, with many others, attended in the neighbourhood of Dyot-street, St. Giles's, it seemed as if a daily, and a universal miracle had been wrought. Scarcely had these jovial companies assembled together in one place, and with one accord; or rather scarcely had the liquor appeared upon the table, when the blind could see—the dumb speak—the deaf hear—and the lame begin to walk! Here, indeed, as Pope has said, one might

"See the blind beggar dance, the cripple sing."

Or, as he has nearly said upon a more solemn occasion,

"Hear the dumb sing; the lame his crutch forego,
"And leap, exulting, like the bounding roe."

However, to descend from the imitation of these poetic strains, of such assemblies * as we have just described, John Richards was a visiting member; and as a beggar's life is avowedly made up of extremes, from these midnight orgies he used to adjourn to a miserable twopenny lodging, in the neighbour-

* From some such meetings as these, we conceive the following Club Bill to have been issued:—

The Company of all Mumpers, Cadgers, Match-makers, Dandelion-diggers, Dragon Fogrum Gatherers, Water-cress Fishers, and others, is earnestly requested, to-morrow evening, at the Old Blind Beak's Head, in Dyot-street, St. Giles's, at nine o'clock precisely. As the house has been altered, the company will be accommodated with a large room up stairs; but those who are not really lame, are desired to leave their sticks and crutches at the bar, to prevent mischief. After the admission of new members the President will give directions from the chair, for avoiding of Beadles and all other unlucky persons; point out, for the benefit of Country members, the best parts for strolling, the method of making artificial sores, &c.

Mr. Nick-froth, the Landlord, also informs his friends and customers, that, on account of the many Evening Lectures, and Methodist Meetings in the Win-

neighbourhood of Lewkner's-lane; where, with the regular return of morning, as a carpenter putteth on his apron, or as a trowel is taken into the hand of a bricklayer; even so John Richards, laying aside all the freaks of the evening, and lengthening his face into the accustomed line of gravity, again sallied forth in quest of those objects of credulity, that will ever be found in a population so extensive as that of this metropolis. John Richards was about 50 years of age; but a disease, and death, which was deaf to all his entreaties, and could not be soothed by those sweet sounds which he was in the daily habit of uttering, put a final period to his perambulations some months since.

THE SALT MINES OF POLAND.

THESE are wonderful caverns, several hundred yards deep, at the bottom of which are many intricate windings and labyrinths. Out of these are dug four different kinds of salt; one extremely hard, like crystal; another, softer, but clearer; a third, white, but brittle; these are all brackish; but the fourth is somewhat fresher. These four kinds are dug in different mines near the city of Cracow; on one side of them is a stream of salt water; and on the other, one of fresh. The revenue arising from these and other salt mines, is very considerable, and formed part of the royal revenue, till they were seized by the Emperor, being situated within the provinces which he dismembered from Poland; the annual average profit of that of Wielitska, was 3,500,000 Polish florins, or £97,222 4*s.* 6*d.* sterling.---The latter, indeed, is the most considerable salt mine in

Winter Season, the Club will meet an hour later than usual. He will also allow sprats to be broiled on the tap-room fire, let his boys fetch hogs' maws and sheeps' heads.---And that he likewise sends strong beer in white jugs or black tin pots (out of a blind) to any of the stands, at a reasonable distance from his house.

N. B. A good Stand to let, now occupied by a person, who is under the necessity of going into the Lock Hospital.

the

the world, and from it a great part of the Continent is supplied with that article. Wielitska is a small town, about eight miles from Cracow; the mine is excavated in a ridge of hills at the northern extremity of the chain which joins to the Carpathian mountains, and has been wrought above 600 years; for they are mentioned in the Polish Annals, so early as 1237, under Bolessaus the Chaste*, and not then as a new discovery: how much earlier they were known cannot be ascertained. There are eight openings or descents into this mine, six in the field, and two in the town itself, which are mostly used for letting down the workmen, and taking up the salt; the others being chiefly used for letting in wood and other necessaries. The openings are five feet square, and about four wide; they are lined throughout with timber, and at the top of each there is a large wheel, with a rope as thick as a cable, by which things are let down and drawn up; and this is worked by a horse. When a stranger has the curiosity to see the works, he must descend by one of these holes: he is first to put on a miner's coat over his cloaths, and then being led to the mouth of the hole by a miner, who serves for a guide, the miner fastens a smaller rope to the larger one, and ties it about himself; he sits in this, and, taking the stranger in his lap, gives the sign to be let down. When several go down together, the custom is, that when the first is let down about three yards the wheel stops, and another miner takes another rope, ties himself, takes another in his lap, and descends about three yards further; the wheel then stops for another pair, and so on till the whole company are seated; then the wheel is again worked, and the whole string of adventurers are let down together. It is no uncommon thing for forty people to go down in this manner. When the wheel is finally set-a-going, it never stops till

* Lenguich, Jus. Pub. vol. i. p. 249.

they

they are all down; but the descent is very slow and gradual, and it is a very uncomfortable time, while they all recollect that their lives depend upon the goodness of the rope. They are carried down a narrow and dark well to the depth of 600 feet perpendicular; this is in reality an immense depth, but the terror and tediousness of the descent, makes it appear to most people, vastly more than it is. As soon as the first miner touches the ground at the bottom, he slips out of the rope and sets his companion upon his legs, and the rope continues descending till all the rest do the same. The place where they are set down is perfectly dark, but the miners strike fire and light a small lamp, by means of which, (each taking the stranger he has care of, by the arm,) they lead them through a number of strange passages and meanders, all descending lower and lower, till they come to certain ladders, by which they descend an immense depth, and this through passages perfectly dark. The damp, cold, and darkness of these places, and the horror of being so many yards under ground, generally make strangers heartily repent before they get thus far; but when at the bottom, they are well rewarded for their pains, by a sight that could never have been expected after so much horror. At the foot of the last ladder the stranger is received in a small dark cavern, walled up perfectly close on all sides. To increase the terror of the scene, it is usual for the guide to pretend the utmost terror on the apprehension of his lamp going out, declaring they must perish in the mazes of the mine if it did. When arrived in this dreary chamber, he puts out his light, as if by accident; and, after much cant, catches the stranger by the hand, and drags him through a narrow creek into the body of the mine, when there bursts at once upon his view a world; the lustre of which is scarcely to be imagined.----It is a spacious plain, containing a whole people, a kind of subterranean republic, with houses, carriages, roads, &c.

This

This is wholly scooped out of one vast bed of salt, which is all a hard rock, as bright and glittering as crystal, and the whole space before him is formed of lofty arched vaults, supported by columns of salt, and roofed and floored with the same, so that the columns, and indeed the whole fabric, seem composed of the purest crystal. They have many public lights in this place, continually burning, for the general use; and the blaze of those reflected from every part of the mine, gives a more glittering prospect than any thing above ground can possibly exhibit. Were this the whole beauty of the spot, it were sufficient to attract our wonder; but this is only a small part. The salt (though generally clear and bright as crystal,) is in some places tinged with all the colours of precious stones, as blue, yellow, purple and green; there are numerous columns wholly composed of these kinds, and they look like masses of rubies, emeralds, amethysts, and sapphires, darting a radiance which the eye can hardly bear, and which has given many people occasion to compare it to the supposed magnificence of Heaven.---Besides the variety of forms in those vaults, tables, arches, and columns, which are framed as they dig out the salt for the purpose of keeping up the roof, there is a vast variety of others, grotesque and finely figured, the work of nature; and these are generally of the purest and brightest salt. The roofs of the arches are in many places full of salt, hanging pendent from the top in the form of icicles, and having all the hues and colours of the rainbow; the walks are covered with various congelations of the same kind, and the very floors, when not too much trodden and battered, are covered with globules of the same sort of beautiful materials. In various parts of this spacious plain, stand the huts of the miners and families, some single, and others in clusters like villages. They have very little communication with the world above ground, and many hundreds of people are born and live all their

their lives here. Through the midst of this plain, lies the great road to the mouth of the mine. This road is always filled with carriages loaded with masses of salt out of the farther part of the mine, and carrying them to the place where the rope belonging to the wheel receives them; the drivers of these carriages are all merry and singing, and the salt looks like a load of gems. The horses kept here are a very great number, and when once let down, they never see day-light again; but some of the men take frequent occasions of going up and breathing the fresh air. The instruments principally used by the miners are pick-axes, hammers, and chissels; with these they dig out the salt in forms of huge cylinders, each of many hundred weight. This is found the most convenient method of getting them out of the mine, and as soon as got above ground, they are broken into smaller pieces, and sent into the mills, where they are ground to powder. The finest sort of the salt is frequently cut into toys, and often passes for real crystal. This hard kind makes a great part of the floor of the mine; and what is the most surprising in the whole place is, that there runs constantly over this, and through a large part of the mine, a spring of fresh water; sufficient to supply the inhabitants and their horses, so that they need not have any from above ground. The horses usually grow blind, after they have been some little time in the mine, but they do as well for service afterwards as before. After admiring the wonders of this amazing place, it is no very comfortable remembrance to the stranger, that he is to go back again through the same dismal way he came, and, indeed, the journey is not much better than the prospect; the only means of getting up is by the rope, and little more ceremony is used in the journey than in the drawing up of a piece of salt. The salt dug from this mine is called Ziebna, or Green Salt, but for what reason it is difficult to determine, its colour being an iron grey; when pounded, it has

a dirty ash colour, like what we call brown salt. The mine appears to be inexhaustible, as will easily be conceived, from the following account of its dimensions, given by Mr. Coxe. "Its known breadth (says he) is 1115 feet, its length 6691 feet, and depth 743:" this, however, is to be understood only of the part which has been actually worked; as to the real depth or longitudinal extent of the mine, it is not possible to conjecture.

Under the mountains adjoining the Kiow, on the frontiers of Russia, and in the deserts of Podolia, are several catacombs, or subterranean vaults, which the ancients used for burying-places, and where a great number of human bodies are still preserved entire, though interred many ages since, having been better embalmed, and become neither so hard nor so black as the Egyptian mummies. Among them are two princes in the habits they used to wear. It is thought that this preserving quality is owing to the nature of the soil, which is dry and sandy. Of antiquities, Poland can boast of but few, as ancient Sarmatia was never perfectly known to the Romans themselves. Its artificial curiosities also are not numerous, consisting chiefly of the gold, silver, and enamelled vessels, presented by the kings and prelates of Poland, and preserved in the cathedral of Gnesna.

A POPISH MISER.

A CHRONICLE, of the City of Venice, for the year 1605, mentions a person of great property in that city, who had such a love of gold, that the bare mention of a large sum had the same operation upon his pulse, as though he had been seized with a violent fever. The spirit of Mammon is also said to have possessed him in such a degree, that even when he made the sign of the cross, as he affected much devotion, he always made use of a gold coin called a zequin. His chests, drawers, &c. which were filled with

bags of gold, were each of them named after some Saint. One large leathern bag, which it was thought he worshipped, he, as it were, dedicated to God the father, another to the Son, and a third to the third person in the Trinity. These bags also on holydays, saints-days, and other festivals of the Church, he used to decorate in the same manner as others do their images. Being upon his death-bed, finding no hope of life, he desired every person to withdraw; when after being absent about a quarter of an hour, his friends returning, found him stretched out, grasping with his arms the largest of his bags, and with both his hands filled with various pieces of gold. In fine, such was the enormous avarice of this wretch, that nothing but the quality and interference of his friends prevented a printed account of his whole life from being published. They, however, could not prevent the circumstances here related from being descanted upon in several of the pulpits of that city.

Famous RUINS *and* STRUCTURES *in the Holy Land, &c.*

[Described by a late Traveller.]

"WHEN you (says this writer) approach the Isthmus, on the peninsula of ancient Tyre, you see some gardens planted with mulberries to feed silk worms. Near these are three curious basons built with stone, of a circular form, and raised about ten feet above the surface of the ground; the largest of them is about sixty yards in circumference, and has steps all round its inside like an amphitheatre, narrowing gradually from the surface to the bottom. But the force of the springs which fill these basons is such, that a stone near three pounds weight will be some time carried about before it sinks to the bottom. These basons afford so much water, that all the adjacent gardens and some water-mills are supplied with their streams. They were constructed by the ancient Tyrians, and though the moderns

moderns have endeavoured to discover the spring which supplies them, they could never succeed. The ruins of ancient Tyre consist of the remains of the walls scattered in different parts, and mostly buried in the sand; they were composed of brick and stone, and now appear about ten feet thick. An old arch which was the gate of the harbour is still to be seen, but though the harbour has been nearly filled up with rubbish, small boats can still enter it. Those who read the prophecies of Isaiah and Ezekiel may form some ideas of the astonishing wealth and magnificence of the once-famous cities of Tyre and Sidon, which, in the end, as many others have been, were ruined only by their excessive wealth. Sidón seems to have been to Tyre very nearly what Westminster is to London, as it stood on a neck of land over against Tyre, and both together formed a bay about sixteen miles in length. In the country in the neighbourhood you meet with gardens planted with orange, lemon, and all sorts of fruit trees, with springs of water very sweet and fresh; but though the inhabitants from the loss of trade are comparatively poor, they are under no apprehensions of the want or scarcity of provisions, as it is not worth the attention of the rich to embark their capitals in any kind of agency or traffic in the prime articles of the necessaries of life."

The Extraordinary CHESTNUT-TREE *on* MOUNT ÆTNA, *called the Castagna de Cento Cavalli; as related by* BRYDONE *and others.*

IT had then the appearance of five distinct trees, the space within them he was assured had once been filled with solid timber, when the whole formed only one tree. The possibility of this could not at first be conceived, for the five trees contained a space of 204 feet in circumference; but the truth of the same was not only proved by the testimony of the country, and the accurate examination of the Canon Recupero,

Recupero, a learned naturalist in those parts, but by the appearance of the trees themselves, none of which had any bark on the inside. Brydone tells us it was so ancient he had seen it marked in an old map of Sicily, published an hundred years before.

A REMARKABLE hog, now in the possession of W. Foster, Walsall, which he bought about two years and a half since for £3. 5*s*. and he is still in a growing state. In length he is, from the point of the nose to the tail end, nine feet 10 inches, in height 3 feet 11 inches, in girt 8 feet, the cleft of his fore hoof is 5 inches and a half, and his weight is supposed to be 60 score pounds. He has been in feeding most of the time his present owner has had him, and has cost him 40 guineas in meal, but it is not yet fat, and it is supposed, when properly so, he will weigh about 1800 pounds. The owner has been offered £100 for him by a person who intended to have carried him about as an exhibition.

April, 1803.—A most singular discovery was lately made at Deptford. While a number of sailors and others were employed in unloading the cargo of the Admiral Aplin, an East Indiaman, who arrived at the above place a fortnight ago from Madras (laden with sugar, saltpetre, and some bale goods,) then being in the act of dragging out of the hold some bags of sugar, they discovered through a board in the hold of the ship a green snake of an amazing size, whose appearance was so terrific that it gave a general alarm, and it being well known that its bite is instantaneous death, it was found necessary to procure weapons for its destruction, which they completed by tying a spade to the end of one of the oars of the boat, by which they caught it by the neck, and confined it till they severed the head from the body. It was as green as grass, 15 feet long, and 18 inches in circumference. It is supposed that this animal

mal in the night time found its way on board the ship, while lying at Madras, by the means of concealing itself in one of the bags of sugar, or sliding on one of the planks, into the hold, following the scent of the sugar. Its bite is always understood to be more venomous than the bite of a rattle snake.

Discovery *of the* Origin *of* Pompey's Pillar.

As this is principally owing to the intrepidity of British seamen, in the first instance, and the learning and investigation of British soldiers in the next place, a concentration of the various accounts of their recent enquiries can neither be devoid of entertainment or interest. It does not appear, though so much indebted to the French as we are upon so many other accounts in Egypt, that they have thrown much light upon this famous pillar. Even Sir Robert Wilson, taking a recollective view of the ascent of some British seamen to its top, makes it a matter of doubt whether they could or could not ascertain the former erection of a statue upon its summit! But by referring to the account published in 1793 concerning this affair, it will appear that one foot and ancle of this statue was positively remaining in 1781, the time the visit was paid to the column by the British tars. To begin with a short description of this monument, it has been justly observed, "That which mostly engages the attention of travellers who pass through Alexandria, is the Pillar of Pompey, as it is commonly called, situated at a quarter of a league from the southern gate of the city. It is composed of red granite. The Corinthian capital is nine feet high. The shaft and the upper member of the base are of one piece of ninety feet long, and nine in diameter. The base is a square of about fifteen feet on each side. This block of marble, sixty feet in circumference, rests on two layers of stone bound together with lead; which, however, has not prevented the Arabs

Arabs from forcing out several of them, to search for an imaginary treasure. The whole column is 114 feet high. It is perfectly well polished, and only a little shivered on the eastern side. Nothing can equal the majesty of this monument; seen from a distance, it overtops the town, and serves as a signal for vessels at sea. Approaching it nearer, it produces an astonishment mixed with awe. One can never be tired with admiring the beauty of the capital, the length of the shaft, nor the extraordinary simplicity of the pedestal. This last has been somewhat damaged by the instruments of travellers, who are curious to possess a relic of this antiquity; and one of the volutes of the column was immaturely brought down about 1781, by a prank of some English Captains, which is thus related by Mr. Irwin:

"These jolly sons of Neptune had been pushing about the can on board one of the ships in the harbour, until a strange freak entered into one of their brains. The eccentricity of the thought occasioned it immediately to be adopted, and its apparent impossibility was but a spur for the putting it into execution. The boat was ordered, and with proper implements for the attempt, these enterprising heroes pushed ashore, to drink a bowl of punch on the top of Pompey's pillar! At the spot they arrived; and many contrivances were proposed to accomplish the desired point. But their labour was vain, and they began to despair of success, when the genius who struck out the frolic happily suggested the means of performing it. A man was dispatched to the city for a paper kite. The inhabitants were by this time apprized of what was going forward, and flocked in crowds to be witnesses of the address and boldness of the English. The Governor of Alexandria was told that these seamen were about to pull down Pompey's pillar. But whether he gave them credit for their respect to the Roman warrior, or to the Turkish government, he left them to themselves, and politely answered, that the English were too great patriots

patriots to injure the remains of Pompey. He knew little, however, of the disposition of the people who were engaged in this undertaking. Had the Turkish empire rose in opposition, it would not perhaps at that moment have deterred them. The kite was brought, and flown so directly over the pillar, that when it fell on the other side, the string lodged upon the capital. The chief obstacle was now overcome. A two-inch rope was tied to one end of the string, and drawn over the pillar by the end to which the kite was affixed. By this rope one of the seamen ascended to the top; and in less than an hour, a kind of shrowd was constructed, by which the whole company went up, and drank their punch amid the shouts of the astonished multitude. To the eye below, the capital of the pillar does not appear capable of holding more than one man upon it; but our seamen found it could contain no less than eight persons very conveniently. It is astonishing that no accident befel these madcaps, in a situation so elevated, that would have turned a landman giddy in his sober senses. The only detriment which the pillar received was the loss of the volute before-mentioned; which came down with a thundering sound, and was carried to England by one of the captains, as a present to a lady who commissioned him for a piece of the pillar. The discovery which they made amply compensated for this mischief: as without their evidence, the world would not have known at this hour, that there was originally a statue on this pillar, one foot and ancle of which are still remaining. The statue must have been of a gigantic size, to have appeared of a man's proportion at so great an height."

But to put the origin of this pillar beyond all doubt, since the Greek inscription upon the same has been decyphered, it appears that this monument, contrary to all former opinions, was erected in honour of Diocletian, by the then Prefect of Egypt. For this discovery, the learned

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are indebted to Lieutenant Dundas, of the Royal Engineers, and Lieutenant Desude, of the Queen's German Regiment, aid-de-camp to Lord Cavan, who accomplished it with much perseverance and difficulty. The letters were so much defaced by time, that it was only during the hours when the sun cast a shadow from them that any observation could be made. In some parts a few characters are totally incapable of being traced. These characters have been filled up by Mr. Hales, an English clergyman, at Naples, employed in decyphering the ancient manuscripts found at Herculaneum. These filled up characters are of course open to criticism. The most material part, however, the name of the person to whom the pillar is dedicated, is quite legible. The following is a translation of the inscription: To Diocletianus Augustus, most adorable Emperor, the tutelar deity of Alexandria, Pontius, Prefect of Egypt consecrated this.

A Man evidently not born to be Hanged or Drowned.

THE following catalogue of calamities are inserted, as having actually occurred to *one man;* and are asserted in a letter from Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, dated as under, and of which the following is an extract.

"I cannot but imagine that the following narrative of accidents, which have fallen to the lot of one man, now perfectly sound and hearty, and in his 45th year, will find a place in your valuable Miscellany; they are so numerous, and many of them so generally fatal, that it is almost necessary for me, (in order to gain the credit I am entitled to), to premise that the subject (or hero if you please) of this letter, is very much engaged in horse-breaking, from which dangerous employment most of these misfortunes have arisen.—1. Right shoulder broken to pieces; 2. Scull fractured and trepanned; 3. Left arm broken in two places; 4. Three ribs on the left side broken—a cut in the fore-

head—lancet-case, flue-case, and knife, forced into the thigh; 5. Three ribs broken on the right side--and the right shoulder, elbow, and wrist, dislocated; 6. Back dislocated; 7. Scull fractured and trepanned; 8. Cap of the right knee kicked off; 9. Left ancle out; 10. Cut for a fistula; 11. Right ancle out, and hip knocked down; 12. Seven ribs broken on the right and left sides; 13. Cap of the right knee kicked off; 14. Kicked in the face, and the left eye out of the socket: 15. Back dislocated; 16. Two ribs and breast bone-broken; 17. Got down by a horse and kicked till he had five holes in his left leg, the sinew just below the right knee cut through, and two holes in that leg, and also two shocking cuts above the knee.

"He has been taken apparently dead, seven times out of different rivers. Besides the above, he has had many other kicks, bruises, and other accidents.

"As several of your friends, many of whom live in this neighbourhood, may wish to satisfy themselves of the veracity of the foregoing enumeration, I shall give them that opportunity, by informing them, that Mr. George Talkington, of Uttoxeter, is the person alluded to; and that every doubt may be removed by applying to Mr. Madeley, surgeon, of this place, who was operator in the tenth instance, and who attended in most of his disasters; or to your humble servant and constant reader,

"*Uttoxeter, Oct. 7th*, 1793. "BAN JERSEY."

An Awful Instance of a Breach of Confidence.

IT is the business of Christians, amidst these trials, to hearken to the declaration of the inspired apostle, and to follow his counsel: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat: the earth also, and the works that are there-

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in shall be burnt up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for, and hastening unto the coming of the day of God."

The following narrative was lately communicated to Mr. A. Fuller, by Mr. John Bignell, jun. He resides at Mr. Robert Bowyer's, Pall Mall, who also can testify the truth of it.

"In the year 1778, there died at Meonstoke, in Hampshire, a Mr. Thomas Wyatt, by trade a wheel-wright. He had, through his own industry, accumulated a sufficiency to live the latter part of his days independent. Messrs. John and Francis Bignell being his nearest relations, he made them his executors, and left them the greater part of his property. Having many distant relations, however, and being of a generous disposition, he bequeathed to each of them a trifling legacy. For this purpose, he had concealed a certain sum of money under the floor, at the bottom of a closet, specifying particulars in a letter which he had left written in Latin, directed to Mr. John Bignell. After the funeral, the above-mentioned money was searched for, but could not be found. Mr. Wyatt, having only a servant-maid in the house with him for some years before his decease, the executors concluded that she must be the person who had taken it; and accordingly accused her of having done so. She denied it in the most solemn manner, wishing that God might strike her dead if she had ever seen it. After being discharged, she went to a lodging in the same village. The executors still concluding that the money must have been taken away by her, procured a warrant and proper officers, in order to search her lodging. Upon their entering the house, she met them with the greatest cheerfulness, still declaring that she had never seen the money. They proceeded first to search the upper part of the house. After having gone through several rooms,

rooms, she said, 'Now we have been in all the rooms up stairs, we will go down.' But they perceived another door, which they soon found led to her apartment. As soon as they entered this room they observed a box, which was locked. Upon demanding the key, she said she had lost it. In consequence of their threatening to break it open, however, she took the key out of her pocket, and unlocked the box herself; but immediately on its being opened, she was observed to take out something, and attempt to put it into her pocket. On stopping her hand, they found it to be a silver tooth-pick, which belonged to Mr. Wyatt; and searching further into the box, they discovered sheets, table-cloths, spoons, a pair of silver buckles, &c. all which she had taken from him. At the bottom of the box, they found the money in a smaller box, which Mr. Wyatt had particularly described. Finding herself thus detected, she fell down on the bed, and expired immediately.

"N. B. Among other legacies which Mr. Wyatt left, he had bequeathed fifty pounds to his maid-servant, and which bequest was thus expressed :—'To my true and faithful servant Elizabeth Earwaker,' &c.

"After her death there arose a dispute between two of her relations, concerning whose right it was to receive her legacy, in consequence of which, one of them went and hanged himself."

ANN SIGGS; A CONSPICUOUS CHARACTER.

(*With her Portrait.*)

WHENEVER any person, in consequence of any thing peculiar in their dress, their manners, or the frequency of their appearance in public places. has rendered themselves conspicuous, the enquriry, who or what they are, is so natural to the human mind, that any attempt to gratify such a degree



ANAS SEGETUM.

Bean Goose.

Of Temminck. Character in the Museum of Leyden.

a degree of curiosity, instead of being criminal, becomes a laudable, and very often an useful source of amusement.—In the case in hand, the public, especially those in the habit of passing through the principal streets of this capital, leading from Bond-street to Cornhill, cannot have been insensible to the daily appearance of a tall woman, walking, with apparent facility with crutches, mostly dressed in white, sometimes wearing a jacket or spencer of green baize, but always so remarkably clean in her dress and appearance, that upon the whole she cannot fail to excite considerable attention.—In consequence of the natural enquiries who, and what such a person is, or has been, and from the remains of a good face and figure, it has generally been considered that the person in question was a relative to Mrs. Siddons; but this report is entirely unfounded.—Ann Siggs is the daughter of an industrious parent, who was many years a breeches maker, at Dorking in Surry, who, after bringing up a large family of eight children, died when this daughter was about 18 years of age, and settled in the family of Capt. Duvernet; from whence, after undergoing a long vicissitude of much better and worse circumstances, she finally gained a *permanent settlement*, by living with a family in Birchin-lane. From whence, through her inability to remain in her latter situation, in consequence of an obstinate rheumatism, she receives from the parish of St. Michael's, Cornhill, a weekly allowance, which, with the benevolence of some well-disposed persons, probably, does much;

"But cannot minister to the mind diseased."

Ann Siggs has lived in Eden-court, Swallow-street, and in the same street where she now resides, ever since the year 1791, the lonely occupant of a small back room, but which she is observed to leave every morning at nine o'clock, and to return about five in the afternoon.—But thus

thus reduced, she still claims much property of which she says she has been wronged. However she still has a brother in an opulent way of business on the Surry side of the water, and had a sister that lived at Isleworth, dead some time since. She is about 54 years of age; but probably disappointment, or that *neglect* which the weakest minds are by no means calculated to sustain, have in some measure wrought upon the intellect. Many, indeed, have been among the number of those whom Gray has said

> The stings of Falsehood those shall try,
> And hard unkindness alter'd eye,
> That mocks the tear it forc'd to flow;

Thus, in the character of Ann Siggs, there is nothing singular but her exterior; the apparent burden of warm, though exceedingly clean clothing, which she constantly wears, is not from affectation, but from the necessity of guarding against the least cold, which she says always increases her disorder. Many who receive alms publicly in their dress and conduct are generally an outrage to decency and delicate feeling. If the present subject possesses any singularity besides that of dress, it is chiefly in the silent appeal of an appearance that involuntarily calls forth a degree of enquiry, and at the same time affords a kind of prepossession, urging the probability that the present predicament of the object of research has certainly been produced by some of the freaks and eccentricities of fortune; hence the common curiosity of learning the particulars, which are always the more agreeable in proportion as they are harmless.

A SHOCKING DISCOVERY.

[Translated from the German Politisches Journal.]

IT is well known that during the French Revolution, the wood Kusel, near Deux Ponts was often the scene of various actions, and that the Prussians encamped in it a considerable

siderable time ; consequently the wood was so nearly ruined, that only a few oak trees were left standing, here and there. These trees were sold in the month of March last, 1803, and one lot fell to a citizen of Strasburgh for fifty florins. Soon afterwards ordering two of them to be cut down, one of them, the largest, was no sooner divided for the purpose of removal, than to the astonishment of the labourers they discovered a human skeleton, from which all the flesh having wasted away, nothing remained near the body at the bottom of the tree but some bits of blue cloth, and part of a hat. A purse half decayed was also found, containing about 100 louis d'ors in gold ; and from the buttons about the blue cloth, it was concluded that the deceased had been a Prussian officer, who not knowing the tree to be hollow, or, probably sleeping near the top of the trunk of it, had slipped in, and from cold, or a variety of circumstances, being unable to extricate himself, had there perished. The fact, however, can be attested by the proprietor, the purchaser of the trees, and several other persons.

A True Relation of a Horrid and Long-Concealed Murder committed upon the Person of Thomas Kidderminster, Gent. of Tupsley in the County of Hereford, at the White Horse, Chelmsford, Essex, in April 1654.

THIS unfortunate person was the only son of Walter Kidderminster, of Tupsley in the county of Hereford ; but being wronged out of his paternal estate by the intrigues of his step-mother, he was compelled very early in life to enter into the service of the Bishop of Ely, who at length employed him as his steward till the commencement of the civil war, and the commitment of that Prelate to the Tower for his unshaken loyalty.—Mr. Kidderminster was afterwards employed in the management of other gentlemen's estates

estates in Cambridgeshire, till thinking it prudent to convert his property into money, and endeavour to settle upon, or sell his estate which he still claimed in Herefordshire, after sending his wife to London, who was then big with child, and telling her he would return in about ten days, he departed from Cambridgeshire through Essex, with a number of writings, taking with him about five or six hundred pounds in gold, most of which he had obtained in exchange for silver.

Going a bye-road for safety, Mr. Kidderminster took a guide with him, but on reaching Chelmsford at night he was discharged. Mr. Kidderminster then put up at the White Horse Inn, where it appears he had lain at other times, and was very well acquainted; but there he was murdered on the same night, and, as before said, in April 1654, as will further appear from the following relation:

He not coming to London according to appointment, about three weeks after Mr. Bainbridge, the parson of Wilburton that married them, came up to Mrs. Kidderminster, and asked her for her husband, who replied, "I hoped you had brought me news of him; what's the reason of it?" "I know not," says he, "but he has made off all, and gone from thence;" which mightily surprised her, insomuch that it threw her into a fit of sickness which had almost cost her her life: but desirous to know the reason of it, she desired Mr. Maidstone, a gentleman that had business there, and was going thither, to send her a particular account, who confirmed the parson's relation. The last place she heard of him was Cambridge. Then a report was spread that he was gone to Amsterdam, where she sends to enquire for him, but was assured he was not there. After some time she heard he was at Cork in Ireland, and thither she sent, and made a most diligent and exact search for him, both in Cork and Munster by the interest of a parson there, but

but heard nothing of him. Then again there was a report that he was in Barbadoes; and the same clergyman sent to a minister in Barbadoes to make enquiries after him, but could hear nothing of him there. Then she heard he was in Jamaica, (for then Oliver, the Usurper, having a design upon the Spaniards, had sent out a fleet under the command of Pen and Venables, who missing of their chief design, took Jamaica, by-the-bye of which place Sir John Reynolds was made governor,) and Mr. Kidderminster having been in the king's army, and formerly condemned for his loyalty, it was generally supposed he was in the fleet, because a great part of the loyalists were sent thither. Mrs. Kidderminster in the mean time (in August, 1654) being brought to bed of a daughter, and exposed to get a livelihood, was entered as a wet nurse in Sir Christopher Guy's family in Glocestershire, and there suckled Sir John Guy, at which time she received a letter from a friend, whereby she was informed that her husband, Mr. Kidderminster, died in Jamaica, and had left Sir John Reynolds executor for her and her young daughter: and by the same letter she understood that Sir John Reynolds was come to London. So accordingly she comes to London to enquire of him; where she hears he was drowned coming over seas for England from the coast of Dunkirk: but she meeting in London with one that did belong to him, he assured her that there neither was, nor had been any such person in Jamaica; for he had enquired of Mr. Hodges, who kept a register of all the passengers to and from Jamaica; and she herself had searched the register two or three times.

From Sir Christopher Guy's she went to Tupsley in the Parish of Hampton Bishop, near Hereford, where she had been informed by her husband that he had an estate; and Mr. John King, Sir Christopher's steward, went along with her to the house where her husband was born, then in the

possession of Thomas Baker, who was married to Mrs. Kidderminster's step-mother. She asked Mr. Baker whether Mr. Kidderminster had been there lately; for her husband had been missing a long while, and she thought to hear of him there. However she demanded the arrears of rent, and expected they would pay her, if her husband were dead. But they, as is believed, had heard of her husband's being missing, and therefore pretended they had purchased the estate, and so ought to pay her nothing. But Mrs. Kidderminster was informed by the neighbours that there was no such thing; and was advised by them to look after it, for it was really her right by the custom, as her free bench, if her husband was dead.

She left Sir Christopher Guy's family about a year and a quarter after, and came to London to live with her sister; and constantly enquiring after her husband, her sister one day, in 1662 or 1663, reading the then news-pamphlet, suddenly cries out, "Sister, here's news of your husband!" upon which she read the news in these words, or to this effect, viz. "that the bones of an unknown person, supposed to be robbed and murdered, were found buried in a back yard in Chelmsford. Whosoever can give notice of any person missing about that time, let them give notice to Mr. Talcott, coroner, in Feering; or to the constable of Chelmsford; or to Mr. Roper, bookseller, over against St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet-street:" and upon comparing the time of her husband's being missing with the time in the newspaper of the supposed murdered body's lying concealed, it appeared to be extremely probable: upon which she immediately, as directed in the newspapers, went to Mr. Roper's, and he advised her to go to Sir Orlando Bridgman, then lord chief justice of the common pleas, who had been the home circuit. She went to my lord's secretary, Mr. Edwards, and acquainted him with her business,

business, who took a note of her name and the place of her abode, and promised to acquaint my lord of her being then upon such an occasion, which he did accordingly; but by some misfortune could not find the note, and so could not send for Mrs. Kidderminster.

Here the matter rested for some time. Mrs. Kidderminster however continued her enquiries; and imparting the particulars of the discovery of Chelmsford to several of her acquaintances, they all persuaded her to desist; alleging the uncertainty, the trouble, and expence of such a prosecution, especially considering how destitute she was both of friends and money at that time. Being so persuaded, she did desist.—Some short time afterwards her husband appeared to her several times, both by day-light and in the night, in the habit he usually wore, looking very sternly upon her: but one night as she lay in her bed, her husband came to her in a white sheet, with a streak of blood upon it; whereupon she was resolved (being much disturbed in her mind) to go to Chelmsford, in order to make the utmost discovery she could.—In pursuance to this resolution, she went to one Mr. Jeremy Maidstone, and desired him to go along with her, and they both agreed to go down a-foot, and so went on their journey as far as Stratford, where a little beyond the town they lost their way, turning to their left hand of the road, that they were four miles out of the way. At last they came to Rumford, and by that time they were very weary, and went into a house at the further end of the town, at the sign of the Black Bull, being the house of one Kendal, where they accidentally found one Mary Mattocks, a sawyer's wife, who lived at Horn Church, two miles from Rumford, and was come to town for a piece of chalk which she had forgot the day before, and for want of which her husband could not work.

Mrs. Kidderminster being now very weary, and not able

to go a-foot any further, enquired of the people of the house whether any horse could be hired in that town: Mrs. Mattocks being present, interposed, and answered, "that there was no horse to be hired, nor any conveniency of coach or waggon to be had upon that day."—They asked Mrs. Mattocks "how far it was to Chelmsford?" she answered, "fifteen miles." Mrs. Kidderminster asked her again, "whether she knew Chelmsford?" she replied, "that she did very well; for she was born and bred there." Question.—"If she knew the White Horse?" Answer.—"Very well; and that one Turner, a very honest man, kept it; but that he that kept it formerly was one Sewell, who, if he had had his deserts, had been hanged long ago, for there was certainly a gentleman murdered in the house." Thereupon she was moved to make a further enquiry; and told Mattocks that her husband was lost much about that time; who informed her, that the hostler who lived in Sewell's time at the White Horse, did live then at Rumford.—She having a mind to speak with the hostler, (not at all suspecting him to be one of the murderers, but only with an intention to gather from him what circumstances she could,) sent for him; but he refused to come: the messenger who was employed upon this errand having heard part of the discourse, as it seems imparted it to him, which made him unwilling to come.—Then Mrs. Mattocks advised Mrs. Kidderminster to go to one Goody Shute, her aunt, at the sign of the Cock on the hither side of the bridge, and that she could give her such intelligence as would answer her expectation.—Upon this Mrs. Kidderminster and her friend departed on their journey towards Chelmsford.—Mrs. Mattocks, after their departure, told the people of the house that a guilty conscience needs no accuser; and that she had heard he (meaning the hostler) had a hand in the business, and had £60 and a suit of clothes.

Being

Being come to Chelmsford, she found that Mrs. Shute was dead of the plague a fortnight before; so they went directly to the White Horse Inn, where, after some discourse with Mr. Turner, then master of the house, he advised them to go the back way out of his house, and to make as if they were just come to town, and to go to Mrs. Sewell's house at the Shears in Colchester-lane, at which place she then lived; where, being come, and sitting in a room by themselves, Mr. Maidstone went out to Mrs. Sewell, and inquiring for the White Horse Inn, Mrs. Sewell asked what business he had there? to which Mr. Maidstone made answer, that he was come to inquire about a gentleman that had been murdered there some years ago. To which Mrs. Sewell replied, aye, this is Mr. Turner's doings, who hath put us to a great deal of trouble about it already; but I will be avenged on him; and so fell out into passionate discourses; but upon Mr. Maidstone's calling in Mrs. Kidderminster, she immediately was silent, not speaking one word to them afterwards; so they paid, and went their way to the White Horse again, where Mr. Turner gave his account concerning the finding and digging up of the corpse, viz. that he, Mr. Turner, had pales between his neighbour's meadow and his orchard, which he could never keep long standing; for if he mended them one day, there would be some of them down the next; at last there happened a great wind which blew them down altogether; so he resolved to make a mud wall, and his neighbour gave him leave to dig the ditch on his side in the meadow; and his men having made an end of casting up the mud wall about four of the clock in the afternoon, being Whitsun eve, were sitting down washing their feet, when Mr. Turner came to them, who said, It is yet a winter's day till night, therefore you must abate me two-pence a man, or else go to work again; which they were willing to. Then he bid them

them make up as much of the neighbour's fence which lay open turning on the corner, till he should have made up their full day's work. They had not digged about half a yard on, ere they digged into a quagmire where the corpse had been buried, and the first thing they hit against was the scull. Master, saith one, see here's a brown bowl! Turner bid them not break it, but take it up carefully, for it might serve for some use or other: so they took it up, and found it a scull, with all the teeth in it but one, and a hole on the left side of the said scull about the bigness of a crown. The rumour of this spreading abroad, caused several of the country people to come to see it, who had formerly observed a new turf to be often laid upon the place, but could not guess the meaning of it. Now upon digging on they perceived, by the position of the corpse, that it had been crammed in double.—Turner took the scull and threw it over into his orchard, where the grass was high and ready to mow; and the scull was observed to run up hill, through the thick grass, for a dozen yards towards the house, till it stopped against a fallen tree; and he followed it, thinking there might be something alive in it that caused its motion; but groping for it under the tree, he found it, and nothing in it but dirt and gravel.—He told us further, that it was observed by some of the town, that formerly there had been a pied horse kept above half a year in a back stable, without being led out to water, as is usual; after that they turned him out, and he was taken up as a stray for the lord of the manor, they making no further inquiry after him; which gave occasion to the town's people to suspect that there had been somebody murdered there: but the horse getting loose, and coming again to the stable door, Mrs. Sewell owned him, saying, it was her horse, and that she had bought him of a kinsman.—But notwithstanding all the care they took to feed him well, he grew leaner and leaner till he died.

That

That night Mrs. Kidderminster came to the White Horse, she lay in a room which was contiguous to that wherein her husband had been murdered, and the bed's head in the room where Mrs. Kidderminster lay was answerable to the bed's head in the other room where Mr. Kidderminster was killed.—Mrs. Kidderminster being afraid to lie alone, desired the maid might lie with her. It was somewhat late before the maid came to bed, where shortly after she fell fast asleep: Mrs. Kidderminster being awake, heard a great noise in the next room, which went out into the gallery, where something seemed to fall with that violence that she thought the room shook, and afterwards came to the chamber door, and lifted up the latch.—Whereupon Mrs. Kidderminster, being much affrighted, with great difficulty awaked the maid, who spoke to her, and immediately the noise ceased. Mrs. Kidderminster told Mr. Turner of this adventure, who made answer that such things had been often heard before.

After the discovery made, the coroner sate upon the bones, and the jury found it a murder; and that a blow upon the side of the head was the cause of the person's death, the impression whereof was plainly visible upon the scull. Mr. Turner was much prejudiced by this discovery; for no passenger or traveller would come near his house, it being reported abroad that the people of that inn did use to murder travellers, and bury them in the dunghill.—At this time Sewell, who kept the inn formerly, and his wife and two daughters were alive, and the hostler and the maid-servant who lived in their family.

Mr. Turner, to vindicate the reputation of the house, and to clear himself and his family from any suspicion which they might otherwise be liable to, had sometime before applied himself to some of the justices of the peace of the county, who issued out their warrant against Sewell and his wife, who were both convened before the justices, where,

where, upon their examination, they denied all; but, however, the justices of the peace thought fit to bind them to appear at the next assizes, and also Mr. Turner was bound to prosecute. Sewell died about a fortnight before the assizes, but suspected to be poisoned by his wife; for this Sewell shewed very visible signs of a troubled spirit, ever since the bones had been found, and walked about like a man who had been crazed in his understanding.—One day he was met by a man who had been his fellow-trooper in the parliament army, who asked him, "Brother, how do you do?" He answered him, "He was very ill:" —Then he told him, "that there was a report that a gentleman was murdered in his house." Whereupon Sewell shook his head, and said—"The blood of that man will be required at my hands." Then his friend bid him not to discover any more to him, lest he should be forced to come in as an evidence against him. Shortly after he fell so very ill, that he was forced to keep his bed, and was thrice thought to have been dead, but came to life again. He often desired his wife that he might speak with some of the chief men of the town, for otherwise he could not die; which his wife would not admit of: so that he died, having his tongue swollen in his mouth, and seemed to be choked in his own blood.—This was a fortnight before the assizes.

At the assizes Mrs. Sewell appeared, and nothing being positively proved against her, she was continued under bail till the next assizes:—At which time the lord chief justice, Sir Orlando Bridgman, went that circuit, and finding nobody could give a clear account of the person murdered, nor that they were the murderers, he ordered an account of it to be put into the public diurnal, at Lent assizes, by which means Mrs. Kidderminster had the first intimation of it.

Mrs. Kidder-

Mrs. Kidderminster returning from Chelmsford, made enquiry at Rumford for the ostler, Moses Drayne, who was shewed to her, standing at a glover's shop in the street: so she went into discourse with him, at the One Bell, where he sets himself down in the chimney corner.—She asked him, "What kind of a man that was that left his horse behind him, when he was ostler at the White Horse in Chelmsford?—What clothes he wore? for she had some suspicion it might be her husband." He answered, "That the gentleman was a tall, big, portly man, with his own hair, dark brown, not very long, curled up at the ends; that he wore a black satin cap, and that his clothes were of a dark grey?" All which she found agree with her husband's. Then she asked him, "What hat he wore?" He replied, "A black one." "Nay, (saith she) my husband's was a grey one?" At which words, he changed colour several times, and never looked up in her face afterwards; but told her, "that one Mary Kendall, that lived at Kilden, near Feering, who had been a servant at Chelmsford, at the time of the gentleman's being there, could inform her much better." So she left him; but before she left the town, she went again to the Black Bull, and spoke to the master of the house, who advised her to speak again with Mrs. Mary Mattocks, for she would be her best evidence. Accordingly, my lord chief justice Bridgman, was acquainted with what Mrs. Mary Mattocks could evidence, and he advised her to return again to Rumford, and get Mrs. Mattocks to make oath of it before a justice of the peace, which she did before justice Mildmay. She being sworn, justice Mildmay issues out a warrant for the apprehension of Moses Drayne the ostler, who was immediately sent to jail. After which, Mrs. Kidderminster was to go into the Isle of Ely, to seek for witnesses who knew her husband, and his habit and horse; where she found his man, who came afterwards to the assizes to prove the clothes

and the horse. Mrs. Kidderminster went from the Isle of Ely to the coroner's house in Essex, within twelve miles of Chelmsford; whence she went to find out Mary Kendall, who lived about a mile from the coroner's house. Mary Kendall seemed to be mightily surprised at Mrs. Kidderminster's coming, and could not be prevailed with to make any discovery. Before Mrs. Kidderminster went to the Isle of Ely, she had been examined by the coroner's means, before three justices of the peace, Sir Thomas Abdy, Sir Capel Lucking, and Sir William Ayloffe, who could not persuade her to confess any thing. Mrs. Kidderminster, together with the coroner, went the second time to the place where she lived, and sent for her to a tavern in the same town; but by all the means they could use, she would confess no more than that she waited on Mr. Kidderminster in his chamber; and shortly after, she and one of her bail (for she was bound over by one of the said justices) fled, and lived together like man and wife. She and her bail having thus absconded themselves, there was no news of them for some time, until by accident the coroner was riding by her brother's house in Kilden, and espied a carrier delivering a letter to her brother, and so went on his way; the coroner followed him, and asked him whether he knew where Mary Kendall lived? The carrier answered, that he had just before delivered a letter from her to her brother; but he could not tell where she was at that time; that he came from Mile-End Green, and promised in his next return to acquaint him; which accordingly he did:—That she lay at the Walnut-tree in Mile-End Green; which the coroner signified by a letter to Mrs. Kidderminster, then at London; who, upon receipt of the letter, repaired to justice Manley at Ratcliffe, who granted his warrant to apprehend her, and to bring her before him, which was put in execution, and justice Manley committed her to Newgate. This was done on Wednesday, and the assizes was to be held

held at Brentwood the Saturday following. During her being in Newgate, she was told by the prisoners there, that her running away was an argument of her guilt, and that therefore she should be certainly hanged; upon which she presently confessed all to Mrs. Kidderminster, and told her she would not have continued so long in an obstinate denial, but that Sewell's daughters had threatened her, that if she confessed, they would swear against her, and have her hanged first. Sewell's wife died of the plague some time before this, and was buried in her orchard, and so could not be brought to justice; in regard no evidence could be brought in time against her. Mrs. Kidderminster, with much difficulty, and not without the special assistance of my lord chief justice Bridgman, procured the said Mary Kendall to be removed from Newgate to Brentwood, upon Friday the day before the assizes. One thing is further remarkable in relation to Moses Drayne, that he being out upon bail after his commitment by justice Mildmay, and at liberty in the town of Rumford; the Friday before the assizes, Mrs. Kidderminster passing through the town in a coach, some of the townsmen acquainted Drayne, that the woman whose husband was murdered, was just then gone through the town: upon which, instead of providing for his own safety by flight, he, by a strange infatuation, fell to removing of his goods. Justice Mildmay remembering a letter sent to him by the lord chief justice Bridgman some time before, to take him into strict custody, which he had forgot then to do, does now immediately cause him to be apprehended, carried to the county jail, and from thence next morning to Brentwood, where he expressed himself to some about him, that he knew what would become of him. But woe be to them that brought him to it: yet he feared none but the dyer. Upon this arraignment he pleads Not Guilty: so Mary Kendall was sworn, who gave in this evidence, viz. That he was [illegible] maid in the inn

[illegible] where

where the gentleman was murdered, and that she having dressed herself in her best clothes, had leave of her master to go to Kilden, where her father lived; and upon her return home that night, her mistress bid her fetch a pair of sheets, and lay them upon the bed in the room called the King's Arms:—When she came into the room, she found the gentleman standing with his back towards the fire, and with his hands behind him; he drank to her, and made her drink up her glass of beer, and bid her go and fetch him a napkin to make him a cap:—He asked her, whether she was the man of the house his daughter, or his maid? She answered, she was his servant. The master and mistress being in the room all this while, and having supped together with the gentleman, he, in the presence of the maid and the mistress, delivered his cloak-bag to the master of the house, and told him there was in it near £600, and writings of considerable value. Then her mistress bid her go to bed, and lie with the younger children in the farther end of the house, that being not her usual lodging, where she was locked in that night, and her mistress unlocked the door in the morning. She said, that between one and two of the clock in the morning, she heard a great fall of something, that it shook the room where she lay, though it was at the furthermost part of the house. When she came down in the morning, she found her master and mistress, and the ostler, sitting very merrily at the fire, with a flaggon of drink before them, none of them having been in bed that night, nor the two daughters, Betty and Priss, who were appointed to lie in the same room where the maid used to lie. She not seeing the gentleman stirring in the morning, after some time she asked her mistress if the gentleman was gone? 'Yes,' answered she, 'though you were so good a housewife that you could not get up;' and blamed her for lying in bed so long. She asked her mistress whether the gentleman left her any thing? 'Yes,' said the mistress;

he

he left you a groat;' and put her hand in her purse, and gave it her. 'Then (said the maid) I will go and make clean the chamber.' 'No, (said the mistress) my daughters and I have set that to rights already; do you what you are about, and then go to your flax wheel;' (the maid being used to spin flax when she had nothing else to do.) The chamber door was kept locked for eight or nine weeks afterwards, and no person admitted to go into it but themselves. One time she asked her mistress, 'Why that room was locked, and not kept clean for guests, as usually?' the mistress answered, 'They had no guests fit for that room, for it was kept for gentlemen.' Some time afterwards, on a Sunday, her master gave her the key to fetch his cloak out of his chest in his chamber; there she saw the gentleman's suit of cloaths, and his cloak-bag, which she saw him deliver to them. About nine weeks afterwards, her mistress sends her up into the room where the gentleman had been murdered, to fetch something, it being the first time she had been in that room since it had been locked: she searched over the room, and looked upon the tester of the bed, and there she saw the gentleman's hat, his hanger, boots, and the satin cap which she took off the gentleman's head, and hanged upon his hat, and laid it upon the table, when she made a cap of the napkin, and put it on the gentleman's head. She took the gentleman's hat, his hanger, boots, and cap, and carried them down to her mistress and the ostler: she asked her mistress, 'You said the gentleman was gone to London in a coach; did he go without clothes, or did you lend him some?—for I saw his clothes in my master's chest, and these things are his too.' Said the ostler, 'You lie, like a whore, those things are mine.' The maid answered, 'You are a rogue; I am sure they were the gentleman's, I know not whose they are now.' Her mistress hearing the maid and the ostler quarrelling, she fell upon the maid, and there arose some

some hot words betwixt them, that her mistress broke her head in three several places, so that the blood did run about her ears. The maid talked the louder, and asked her, 'Whether she intended to murder her, as she did the gentleman?' Then her master, hearing this disturbance, came to them, and persuaded her to hold her tongue and be quiet. She further deposed, that the ostler had from his master £60 of the gentleman's money; for that some short time after the murder, he lent the £60 to a woman that kept the Greyhound Inn in the same town; and that that must be the money, for the ostler was worth nothing of his own at the time of the murder; and that the ostler had the gentleman's clothes, which she had seen in her master's chest; and that the ostler sent them to one Clarke, a dyer, in Mousam, to have them dyed into a liver colour; the dyer asked him, 'why he would have the colour altered, since they were of a better colour before?' The ostler answered, 'that he would have them dyed, because he did not like the colour;' and that about a twelvemonth after, he dyed the grey hat black. Then she deposed further, that her master raised himself to a good condition upon a sudden; for before he was so poor, that his landlord would not trust him for a quarter's rent, but would make him pay every six weeks; and that he could not be trusted with malt, was forced to pay for one barrel under another. That shortly after they bought a ruined malt-house, and new built it, and did usually lay out £40 in a day to buy barley. There was seen, upon a sudden, a great change in the daughters' condition, both as to their clothes and otherwise; and if she bought but a hood for one of the daughters, there was a piece of gold changed; and they were observed to have gold in great plenty."

Mary Mattocks deposes—"She says, the ostler carried a grey hat to the hatters: which being left there, after the ostler went away, she went thither and viewed it, and begged

begged the head lining, which she proved to be of a rainbow colour: as also, that goodwife Shute, and she the said Mary Mattocks, being drying their clothes in the churchyard, Mary Kendall came there also to dry her basket of clothes; and she complains to goodwife Shute, saying, 'My mistress Sewell, has beaten me cruelly to-day, and broke my head in three places, and almost killed me; but I have told her pretty well of her roguery.' 'What roguery, saith goodwife Shute?' 'It is (saith she) concerning the gentleman they murdered there.' 'Murdered there!—(saith Shute) dost thou know of any murder done there?' (and her kinswoman Mattocks being going away, she withheld her by the apron, that she might stay to hear what she would say)—'No, goody Shute, (says she) I don't know it; but there is a great suspicion of it.' So she fell a telling them the story, that in the heat of the quarrel her master pulled her out of the room, and cried, 'Mary, will you leave your prating, and be quiet? can't you be quiet; but you must talk at this rate? your mistress is a perverse woman, and I'll give you £20, and you shall be gone, and live no longer with her;' and (saith she) goody Shute, I have the £20, and I do intend to be gone.'—Saith goody Shute, 'Mary, Mary, take heed what you do; I would give them the £20 again, and go and acquaint some justices of the peace with it; for the £20 may hang thee twenty years hence!'—so they parted. By the next morning all was hushed up at home, and Mary Kendall came to goodwife Shute, and begged of her to say nothing of their yesterday's discourse; for what she had then said, proceeded from passion, or else she had never said it.—Says Shute, if I do not hear it questioned, I shall say nothing of it; but if at any time it comes in question, I will both say it, and make you say it too."—But Mary Kendall being examined to this matter at the trial, denied the receiving of the £20.

Mr. Turner

Mr. Turner gave in evidence what you have read before, concerning the finding of the murdered body; and, according to the judges' order, he brought the scull into court, where, by their directions, Moses Drayne, the prisoner, was bid to take it up; but he trembled so much, that he could hardly hold it in his hand.

Memorand.—"There was a boy that served in Sewell's house at the time of the murder, and Sewell falling angry with him, carried him up stairs, and tied him to a bed-post, where he whipped him with a cart whip unmercifully, that he cried so vehemently, that the maid, Mary Kendall, came up and got him at liberty; when she heard him say, 'that it was well for him she came, or else his master would have murdered him, as he did the gentleman, when he blooded him into the hogs' pail.' And the boy said likewise, he had heard 'that the gentleman was knocked on the side of the head with a pole axe, and afterwards his throat was cut by his mistress, with the help of her daughter Betty.' These circumstances were proved at the trial by several persons; and it seems the rumour had been spread in the town by means of this boy. In some short time after this boy was sent to Barbadoes, and sold to a merchant that lived near Billingsgate, at whose house Mrs. Kidderminster was to enquire for him. This matter relating to the boy's sending away, was discovered by the honest diligence of Mr. Talcott, the coroner, who directed Mrs. Kidderminster to trace this matter, and who hath the notes relating to it."

There were two women, one of them a washerwoman of that town, and the other a Quaker, that lived next house to Mr. Sewell, who both gave evidence at the trial. The washerwoman was going by the house very early, between one and two in the morning, to wash in the town; and the Quaker was sitting up for her husband, who was not then come home. They both of them made oath, "That about

about those hours they heard a noise in Mr. Sewell's house, and a man's voice crying, 'What, will you rob me of my money, and murder me too?—If you take my money, spare my life.' Then they heard something that fell very heavy, and a noise as it were of chairs and stools thrown about the room, and all the lights put out, and after that no further noise heard."

The next morning these women enquired at the house, what might be the occasion of the noise the night before; for they thought they heard somebody cry out murder!—But they were answered, they must needs be mistaken; for there was no noise there, nor was any body in the house but their own family.

William Denton, Mr. Kidderminster's servant in the Isle of Ely, was produced as evidence, to prove the horse and the gentleman's clothes and hat, which he did.

There was a washerwoman who washed the next wash after the gentleman was murdered, who being examined by a justice of the peace, and asked whether she found in the wash any linen more bloody than ordinary; she utterly denied that she did—with this imprecation, "That if there was any such, she wished she might rot alive:" and so it happened; for a little time after her bowels began to rot away, and she became detestably loathsome till she died.

Mr. Turner and his wife related to Mrs. Kidderminster, that some time after the murder of her husband, there came a farmer to lodge at Sewell's inn, who received £20 in the town for barley, which Sewell had heard of:—And in the night time Sewell came to this farmer's chamber door, attempting to get in; but the farmer had very carefully set a table, chairs and stools to blockade the entrance. The noise he made awaked him: whereupon he swore, that the first man that broke in upon him, should meet his death.—Upon which he heard Sewell's voice, which he knew very well, speaking to somebody that was with him; so they

went down stairs without attempting any further, and the farmer got up, put on his clothes, and the next morning by break of day, took his horse and rode away, without taking his leave.

Upon the aforesaid evidence, the jury found Moses Drayne, the ostler, guilty; and being after sentence remanded to prison, with five other condemned persons, as also Mary Kendall, whom the judges had remanded to prison during pleasure. Being all together, one of them, who was condemned for having two husbands, spake thus to Moses Drayne:—"You see, we are all here condemned to die; you will do well to confess the whole truth—had this Mary Kendall a hand in the murder of the gentleman, or not? Speak the truth, for we are all to die soon." He made answer, "No, she had no hand in the murder, but what she had sworn was truth; but the gentleman was murdered there, and by his master and mistress, and their eldest daughter, Betty; but, for his part, he knew of it, 'tis true, and was there, but did not strike the blow, nor help to kill him; but helped to bury him, and had 60*l.* of his money, and all his clothes, given him by his master and mistress." He was going on to make a sincere confession, how all things were; and his wife coming in in the mean time, took hold of him, and bade him hold his tongue, and confess no more; for if he died for it, he should hang nobody else: and ever after he would say nothing, nor make any answer, neither to the minister nor any body else, nor said a word at the gallows.

Moses Drayne having confessed, that Betty, the eldest daughter, had a hand in the murder; and Mary Kendall having sworn at the trial, that the two sisters were not in bed that night the murder was committed, moved Mr. Talcott, the coroner, to procure a warrant from a justice of the peace, to apprehend the two sisters; which being done, and they brought before the justice, he bound them to appear

appear at the next assizes to be held for the county of Essex, which was the assizes after Moses Drayne was convicted. When the assizes came, both the daughters appeared, and a bill of indictment was preferred against them to the grand jury; against whom Mary Kendall gave the same evidence that she had done before at the trial of Moses Drayne, and also what Moses had confessed in the prison.

The grand jury thinking the evidence not to be sufficient to find the bill, they returned an ignoramus; and so the two sisters were discharged by proclamation.

Mrs. Kidderminster marrying again some time after, her claim upon her husband's estate devolved upon the daughter she was pregnant with. Mrs. Kidderminster carried on a suit for her against Baker, upwards of ten years, without success; he died, as did also his son, still the widow of young Baker enjoyed it. At length Mrs. Kidderminster's daughter was married, and to recover the estate, her husband was left carrying on a suit in chancery some years after.

NATURAL CURIOSITIES IN NORWAY.

The Dovre-fiell, Maelstrom, Cataracts, &c.

Norway, has been justly said, to be one of the most mountainous countries in the world. To pass some of its hills, it is necessary for a person to travel fifty or seventy miles. One of the craggy summits, in particular, is called *Dovre-fiell*, and takes its name from the resemblance it bears to a man's head with his hat on. This appearance is completely heightened by that of an *eye*, formed by an opening of the rock, through which the sun and the light of heaven enter; but there are many others that afford prospects not a little entertaining.

The *Maelstrom*, or whirlpool near the Isle of Moskoe, called by the Norwegians, *Moskoe-strom*, is another singular curiosity.

Dur-

Ever fatal to vessels that approach it too nearly, especially at high tide, the utmost caution is used by mariners. The surf and foam thrown up by this aquatic volcano, forms a circle of more than two leagues in circumference. At this time the violent agitation of the waves, and the force with which the water is attracted and repulsed, exhibit an object truly terrific. The reflux of the waters, however, from this whirlpool, offers a good opportunity to the fishermen who dare to hover round its surface to catch fish, as the ebullition is then too violent to permit them to sink.—The violence and the roaring of this whirlpool is greater than any cataract; and this without any intermission, except a quarter every sixth hour; viz. at the turn of high and low water, when its impetuosity seems at a stand. This interval is the only time the fishermen venture near; but this motion soon returns, and however calm the sea may be, gradually increases with such a draught and vortex, as to draw in any thing that comes within its sphere of action, a circumference nearly six miles, and keep it under water several hours, when the fragments of any large body shivered by the rocks, frequently come to view. At the time when the stream is most violent, and its fury heightened by a storm, it is dangerous to come within a Norway mile of it; boats, yatchs, and even ships having been carried away, by not guarding against it, before they were within its reach. It is added, as a most singular circumstance, that whales sometimes coming too near the stream, are overpowered by its violence, and then it is impossible to describe their howlings and bellowings, in their fruitless endeavours to disengage themselves. A bear also, once attempting to swim from Lofoden to Mosko, with a design of preying upon the sheep on the island, the stream caught him and bore him down, whilst he roared so terribly as to be heard on shore.

A large

A large ship once driven into this stream, was first observed with its prow mounted foremost; then reverted with its stern uppermost, the surf flying over the mast-head, and in a short time seen no more.

From these circum-tances, the judicious reader may conceive, what a perilous place such a vortex must be in a hard gale of wind and a full tide; since even in a calm, when the current is most gentle, and at the turn of the tide, the only time the fishermen can venture near, the boats are whirled round upon its surface.

A cataract near Gottersburg, is no less remarkable for its torrent, than the Isle of Moskoe for its whirlpool. Here the waters that run into the sea from a considerable distance in the inland country, at length arriving at the brink of a precipice, are from thence precipitated into a deep channel of their own forming, with a sound at a distance, resembling thunder. This rapid current, the country dealers in timber, make use of to float their rafts down towards the sea. The precipice is so high, and the channel into which the timber falls, so deep, that the largest masts are carried down by the impetuosity of the current, remain at the bottom a considerable time before they re-appear upon the surface; some of them are out of sight twenty, some forty minutes, and others near an hour. It is added, that this channel has often been sounded, but without any success in finding a bottom.

A SINGULAR DELIVERANCE.

[From a rare Black Letter Pamphlet, imprinted [illegible] Lucas, in the Year 1607; concerning the great [illegible] Witch.]

Among other incidents, it appears in this various relation, that a young woman in Monmouthshire, having been milking, before she could complete that business, she was so nearly surrounded with the witches, that with much difficulty,

ficulty, she got up a high bank, where she was compelled to remain all that day, the next night, and till eight o'clock the next morning, before she was seen. By this time, the waters had gained so much all round her, that there was only a very small space left about her that was uncovered, and having no boats in those parts, some of her friends who attempted to reach the spot upon a fine gelding, were obliged to return. At length, as they happened to conceive, that two broad troughs in which they had used to salt bacon, could be fixed together, the experiment was tried; two men got into them with long poles, and happily getting to the bank on which she stood, nearly overcome with hunger and cold, she was miraculously saved:—But the most singular circumstance attending this adventure, and which was witnessed by the two men sent to fetch her, was, that the hill or bank upon which she stood, "was so covered over with wild beasts and vermin that came thither to seek for succour, that she had much ado to save herself from taking of hurt by them, and keep them from creeping upon and about her. The beasts and vermin there, were dogs, cats, moles, foxes, hares, rabbits, and even mice and rats. And that which is more strange, not one of them once offered to annoy the other, though they were deadly enemies by nature: yet in this danger, in a genteel sort, they freely enjoyed the liberty of life;" which, in mine opinion, says the author of the pamphlet, was a most wonderful work in nature.

A MODERN ANCHORET.

The name of Hermit, though formerly the ideas attached to such characters were comparatively common, is at present seldom found, excepting in the annals of ancient history, or romance. Still though the denomination, equally with the qualities of a hermit or solitary person, have been

so much abused, that the original has been nearly lost sight of; a very remarkable instance and illustration of that character, is probably now living, where he was seen since the French Revolution, by the same ingenious writer, from whose travels, our account of the Black Lake, is translated. He observes, that taking a boat at a place where the River *Aa* enters the Lake of Lanwerts, he met with an aged boatman, who received him in his light skiff, though the waves were then much agitated.—The wind redoubling its fury, my boatman (said he) repeated his prayers with a loud voice; while in the room of a sail, as I was directed to open a large umbrella against the wind, which was lying at the bottom of the boat, we soon gained a small island, or rock, where, in the act of going on shore, we were received by a very tall man, with a black beard, clad in the long dress of a hermit, who with much courtesy, immediately conducted us to his hermitage, situated upon this rock, about a hundred paces over, and afforded us every refreshment in his power. This hermit, on religious enquiry, we found to have been formerly one of the old Swiss guards under the late French monarchy; but who, being weary of the anti-chambers of Versailles, and the [illegible], determined to secede himself from the busy world, just before the fury of the Parisian populace nearly destroyed the whole of those brave men. Upon this small rock, which in comparison with the broad expanse of the surrounding waters, seemed no more than a bare nest upon the branch of a tree—his cell, his breviary, his boat, a small garden, and a little alley to walk in, formed the whole of his territory and possessions. This voluntary hermit seems to have known the world well, having had its share of its troubles. His manners announce him to have been a man not unused to good company, and his conversation of course is by no means uninteresting. In speaking of the uncertainty and complication of the affairs of the world,

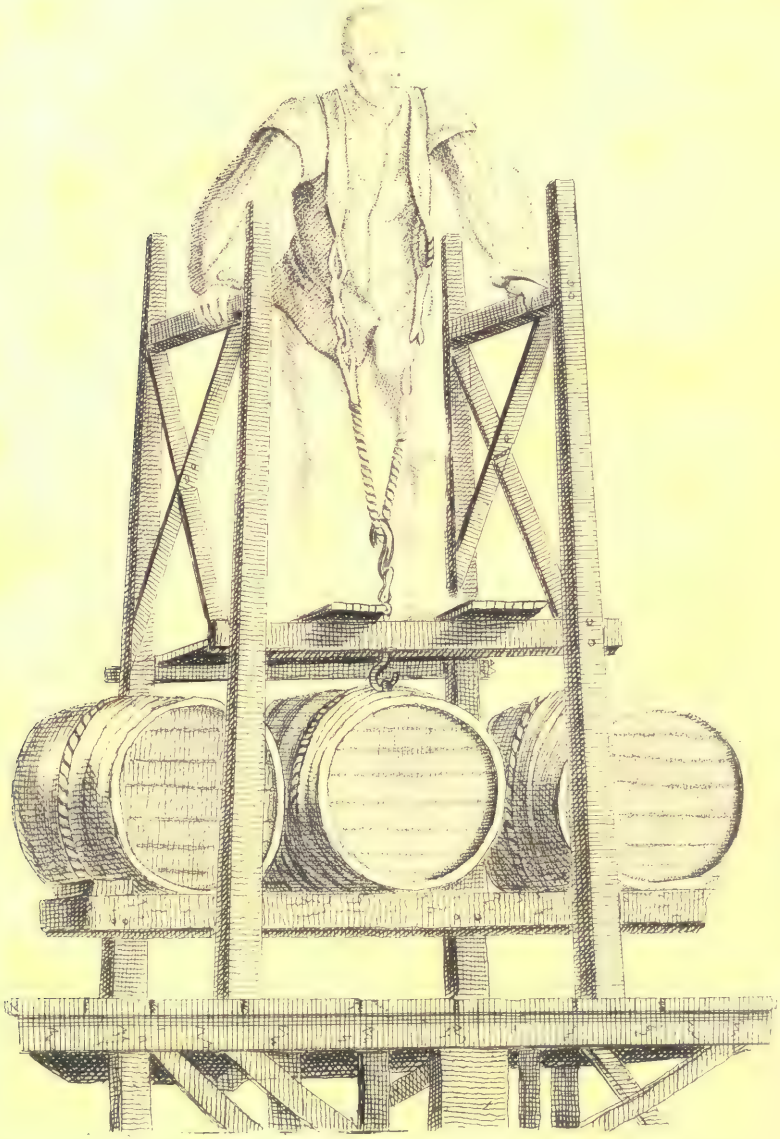
world, and contrasting them with his own way of living, he has the talent of disarming every kind of censure, and almost to persuade one to embrace the system of simplicity and retirement which he has adopted, and with which he appears perfectly satisfied. When we left his rock, the hermit detaching his own little boat, accompanied us to the largest of the islands in this lake, where there is another hermitage, very commodious, with a handsome chapel. Upon this island, there is also a noble and majestic tower, the remains of the castle of Schwanau, at present the melancholy habitation of owls and ravens.

The history of this ruined castle, which contains a noble instance of the love of liberty, and the just and successful resistance of tyranny among the Swiss, may be noticed hereafter.

A SINGULAR PROPENSITY.

DANCING in Russia, we have been informed, is the favourite diversion of all ranks.—In Petersburgh, it is not uncommon for a company of middling persons to practise it on two successive days in the week.—Not long since an old man belonging to one of these clubs, made himself remarkable by his mania for this diversion, which was the more striking in him, it being so singularly in contrast with his trade, as he was a coffin-maker. Carrying on his business in the wholesale way, he earned a great deal of money, which he not only spent in frequenting every place where he heard of a dance, but even wrote to foreign parts for all the new dances that came out, with their music; which were sent him by the post, that he might be sure to have them earlier than any other person.

DURING the excessive heats of the Summer of 1802, the river Seine, in France, was so far dried up, that the inhabitants in getting stones from the bottom for building, discovered



THOMAS TOPHAM, *THE STRONG MAN.*

Performing one of his astonishing feats of Strength in Spafields 28th of May 1741.

Pub.d according to Act of Parliament 1st May 1741 by R. Scott at the Print shop in Queens Head Alley Aldersgate.

discovered some marble columns and valuable fragments, with some copper instruments, and a figure of bronze about ten inches high, representing a naked woman in the act of rising, and with her hands wringing the water out of her hair. This little figure is remarkably graceful, and bears the finest proportions. In subsequent researches in the bed of that river, a number of surgical instruments have been found, with bronze medals of the Emperors Nero, Antoninus, Vespasian Domitian, Nerva, &c.

A complete Account of THOMAS TOPHAM, *commonly called the* STRONG MAN; *for the first Time collected, with many Particulars never before made public; together with the Portrait of this singular Character, performing one of his amazing Exhibitions of Strength.*

THIS extraordinary person, whose muscular exertions astonished so many persons in this metropolis, about the year 1741, was then in the prime of life, viz. of the age of 31. He was born in London, and when he had obtained his full growth, was about five feet ten inches high. His father being a carpenter, he was brought up to the same business; but feeling his superior strength, he did not follow it after he was 24 years of age, but became a publican; and in order to be near the scene of the most athletic exercises then exhibited in London, viz. the famous ring for cudgelling, wrestling, backsword and boxing, over which old Vinegar presided in Moorfields, (before the present magnificent buildings were erected.) Topham took the Red Lion public house at the corner of the City Road, nearly opposite the Old Hospital of St. Luke's, for incurables. In this house, however, notwithstanding all his strength of body, Topham failed, probably for want of strength of mind, to bear up against the inconstancy of his wife The same house, if we may be allowed to make any

remarks upon *names only*, was not less unfortunate to a man of the name of Samson, who, as well a stronger man than himself, went out from this same Red Lion, much worse than he came in.

The first public feat performed by Topham, of much notoriety, viz. his pulling against a horse, was in the neighbourhood where he then lived, viz. Moorfields; neither was it against stumps that he put his feet; but against the dwarf wall dividing Upper from Lower Moorfields. He afterwards pulled against two horses, but as his legs were placed horizontally instead of rising parallel to the traces of the horse, he was jerked from his seat, and had one of his knees much bruised and hurt; whereas it was the opinion of Dr. Desaguliers, that had he been in a proper position, he might have kept his situation against the pulling of four horses, without the least inconvenience.

The feats, which Dr. Desaguliers says he himself saw him perform, are as follow:—

By the strength of his fingers he rolled up a very strong and large pewter dish—he broke seven or eight short pieces of a tobacco pipe by the force of his middle finger, having laid them on his first and third finger—having thrust the bowl of a strong tobacco pipe under his garter, his legs being bent he broke it to pieces by the tendons of his hams, without altering the bending of his legs. Another bowl of this kind he broke between his first and second finger, by pressing them together sideways—he lifted a table with his teeth six feet long, with half a hundred weight hanging at the end of it, holding it in a horizontal position a considerable time.

He took an iron kitchen poker about a yard long and three inches round, and struck upon his bare left arm between the elbow and the wrist, till he bent the poker nearly to a right angle.

With such another poker, holding the ends of it in his hands,

hands, and the middle of it against the back of his neck, he brought both ends of it together before him; and what was yet more difficult, he pulled it almost strait again.

He broke a rope of two inches circumference, though in consequence of his awkward manner, he was obliged to exert four times more strength than was necessary.

He lifted a rolling stone of 800lbs. weight, with his hands only, standing in a frame above it, and taking hold of a chain that was fastened thereto.

Doctor Hutton of Birmingham, speaking of Topham, is right in asserting that he also kept a public house at *Islington;* he likewise confirms what was said of him by Dr. Desaguliers; besides his lifting two hogsheads of water—heaving his horse over the turnpike-gate—carrying the beam of a house as a soldier carries his fire-lock. These, Dr. Hutton observes, were the reports circulated respecting Topham in the country; but however belief might be staggered, he observes, she recovered herself, when this second Samson appeared at Derby as a performer in public, at a shilling each Upon application to Alderman Cooper, to exhibit, the magistrate was surprised at the feats he proposed; and as his *appearance* was like that of other men, he requested him to strip that he might examine whether he was *made* like them, but he was found extremely muscular.—What were hollows under the arms and hams of others, were filled up with ligaments in him.

From the jerk he received from the two horses, Dr. Hutton observed, that he limped a little in his walk; and though a well-made man, had nothing singular in his appearance.

The performances of this wonderful man at Derby, in whom the Doctor observes, the strength of twelve men were united; were the rolling up of a pewter dish of seven pounds, as a man rolls up a sheet of paper—holding a

pewter quart at arm's length, and squeezing the sides together like an egg-shell—lifting 200 weight with his little finger and moving it gently over his head.—The bodies he touched, seemed to have lost the power of gravitation.—He also broke a rope fastened to the floor, that would have sustained twenty hundred weight—lifted the oak table with half a hundred weight to it; a piece of leather being fixed to one end for his teeth to hold, and while two of the feet stood upon his knees, he raised the end of it with the weight, higher than that in his mouth. Mr. Chambers, then Vicar of All Saints, in Derby, who weighed 27 stone, he took and raised with one hand, his head being laid on one chair, and his feet on another. Four people also, 14 stone each, sat upon Topham's body, and these he heaved at pleasure. At one blow he struck a round bar of iron, one inch in diameter, against his naked arm, and bent it like a bow.—Weakness and feeling seemed fled together.

Being a master of some music, Dr. Hutton says he entertained the company at Derby, with *Mad Tom*.—The Doctor also heard him sing a solo to the organ (then the only one in Derby) in St. Werburgh's Church; but though he might perform with judgment, yet the voice more terrible than sweet, scarcely seemed human. The ostler at the Virgin Inn, where Topham put up, having insulted him, he took one of the kitchen spits from the mantle-piece, and bent it round his neck like a handkerchief; but as he did not chuse to tuck the end in the ostler's bosom, the cumbrous ornament only excited the laugh of the company, until Topham undertook to untie his iron cravat.—Had he not abounded with good-nature, the men might have been in fear for the safety of their persons, and the women for that of their pewter shelves. One blow from him would for ever have silenced those heroes of the fist, who boast so much of boxing.

But the circumstances here related by Dr. Desaguliers, and

and Dr. Hutton, were only the common place performances of Topham, when he went about purposely to shew himself; some aged persons who knew him in his neighbourhood, relate a variety of pranks which he was occasionally in the habit of playing:—for instance, one night finding a watchman fast asleep in his box, near Chiswell-street, he took both, and carrying the load with the greatest ease, at length dropped the watchman and his wooden case over the wall of Tindall's burying ground, where the poor fellow, only half awake, and doubting whether he was in the land of the living, in recovering from his fright, seemed to be waiting for the opening of the graves around him.—Another time, sitting at the window of a low public house, in the same street, while a butcher from a slaughter-house was going by with nearly half an ox on his back, Topham relieved him of it, with so much ease and dexterity, that the fellow almost petrified with astonishment, swore that nothing but the devil could have flown away with his load. A third time, thinking to enjoy a little sport with some bricklayers, by removing part of a scaffold just before they intended to strike it, from a small building, his grasp was so rude, that a part of the front wall following the timber, the fellows conceived it had been the effects of an earthquake, and immediately ran, without looking behind them, into an adjoining field. Here, however, Topham was near paying dearly for his jest, as one of the poles struck him on his side, and gave him great pain.

Another time being persuaded by one of his acquaintance, to accompany him on board a West Indiaman in the river, and being presented with a cocoa nut, he threw one of the sailors into the utmost astonishment, by suddenly cracking it close to his ear, with the same facility as we crack an egg-shell; and upon some remark being made upon an observation deemed rather insolent, by the mate of the ship, Topham replied, that he could have *cracked the*

the bowsprit over his head; and of the truth of which, there was not the least doubt.

Another time, a race being to be run on the Hackney-Road, when a fellow with a horse and cart, would attempt to keep close to the contending parties, much to the displeasure of the spectators in general; Topham, who was one of them, stepping into the road, seized the tail of the cart, and in spite of all the fellow's exertions, in whipping his horse to get forward, he drew them both backwards, with the greatest ease and velocity; and while the pleasure of the beholders was at the highest point of gratification, the surprise and rage of the driver seemed to be beyond all expression, nothing preventing him from exercising his whip, upon the immediate cause of his chagrin, but the probable fear of his being pulled or crushed to pieces.

During the time he kept a public house, two fellows, extremely quarrelsome, though patiently borne with for a considerable time, at length proceeded so far, that nothing would satisfy them, but fighting the landlord. But as they could be appeased no other way, Topham, at length, seizing them both by the nape of the neck, with the same facility as if they had been children, he knocked both their heads together, till perfectly sensible of their error, they became as abject in asking pardon, as they had before been insolent in giving offence.

Still this second Samson was not without his Dalilah; the infidelity of his wife was hinted at before; but though not generally known, her partiality for some other person, had such an effect upon Topham, that, unable to bear the reflections it excited in his mind, after beating her very severely, he put a period to his own existence, and died in the flower of his age.

The circumstance represented in our plate, was another in which strength operated to the surprise and astonishment of a number of beholders; and in fact, such was the impression

pression that he left on the minds of the people in London, that he was represented in some of his feats upon several signs, more than one of which are still remaining; one in particular, over a public house near the May-pole in East Smithfield, represents him in the act of pulling against two dray-horses.

It should have been noticed, that our representation of Thomas Topham was, in consequence of his lifting three hogsheads of water, weighing 1836 pounds, in Bath-street, Cold-bath-fields, on the 28th of May 1741, in honour as it is said, of Admiral Vernon, or rather in commemoration of his taking Porto Bello with six ships only. Thousands of people were assembled on this occasion.

Singular Qualities *of the* Egyptian Earth.

The earth in the neighbourhood of the River Nile, is found to have a remarkable quality. Keep it for months, and no alteration will be perceived in its weight, however variable the state of the atmosphere, even if repeatedly weighed the same day, and so in succession until the middle of June, when the river begins to rise, precisely at which time the earth which has been preserved from waste and moisture, becomes more ponderous, and its weight will be daily found to increase, till the river has attained its height. This seems to be occasioned by the whole body of the air in the neighbourhood of the Nile becoming more condensed; and it has been remarked, that on the very day when the river begins to rise, the most inveterate plagues have been found to break out suddenly in Cairo.—In Egypt, they prepare and clarify the water of the Nile, by stirring it about in large stone jars with a few bruised almonds: some little time after which it is drawn off for use. Perhaps some method of this kind might have the effect of clarifying beer and other liquors.

BRAVERY.

[We are indebted for the following Communication to a Gentleman who holds a high Rank in the British Service.]

In a sortie made some time since, from Dunkirk, a severe contest was held for some time with a part of the army under his Royal Highness the Duke of York. Towards the close of the action, and during the retreat of the French, an officer of cavalry belonging to the garrison, perceived a national standard lying on the ground, either dropped in the flight, or fallen from the hands of an ensign, killed or wounded. Though he was himself at the same time most closely pressed by a detachment, after having twice valiantly cut his way through bodies of Hanoverian infantry, he leaped from his horse, and seizing the standard, remounted. Scarcely, however, had he seated himself, when the pursuers came up, and a grenadier of the British cavalry, demanded him as his prisoner, with the surrender of his flag. The French officer replied, that he was determined to carry it to the fortress, or perish in the attempt. He fought bravely in defence of his charge; and when at last fortune had given the advantage to his adversary, he persisted in declaring, that he would neither be made prisoner, nor give up the colours; that he knew how to die, but not to dishonour himself or the nation.—The result was, that he actually suffered himself to be shot through the head, and thus did this standard fall into our possession. The Duke of York, with one of his aid-du-camp, came up at the instant, and were spectators of the unexampled bravery and resolution of this magnanimous son of Mars.

THE BLACK LAKE IN SWISSERLAND.

[Translated from the French.]

Germany has to boast of its Black Forest, and the writers of Romance, of their Black Castles and Caverns without

without number; however, the Swiss *Finstersee*, situated in the Canton of Zug, has appeared a singular phenomenon to the few travellers who have visited that romantic quarter on foot. It is situated, says a late traveller, in a circular bason, and concealed till you come directly upon it by the surrounding hills. From a declivity rather steep, he says, having the first view of this water, I could not readily account for its appearance; my eyes seemed as if suddenly affected by the reflection of the sun-beams from a surface of ice; but in a moment after, the smooth level, beneath my feet, seemed changed to a deep green. This hue, from which it has derived the name of the Black Lake, is naturally accounted for by the foliage and pasturage, which rising thickly all around it, cannot do otherwise than darken the surface of this Lake. Its extent is not large; but in a country where your ears are nearly deafened by the roaring of distant torrents, the rippling of the smaller brooks and rills down the rocks and precipices, together with a continual rustling of leaves and saplins shaken by the winds; any image, which, like that of a lake, suggests the idea of stillness, cannot be otherwise than agreeable. On the other hand, when a stranger is saluted by the hospitable peasants in this quarter, the rude symphony proceeding from various objects I have just described, compel them to speak so loud, that the former would imagine they were displeased with him—an idea entirely misplaced, as the Swiss peasant is so cordial, even in his manner of shaking hands with a visitor, that you would almost apprehend the dislocation of your fingers.—Another peculiarity in these lonely regions, is the particular cry of the cow herds; which being conveyed by the echoes from mountain to mountain, the docile beasts on hearing it, will immediately collect themselves together, and follow the cry wherever it may lead them.

INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF THE EARTHQUAKE AT LISBON, DESCRIBED BY AN EYE-WITNESS.

(Concluded from page 100.)

I COULD never learn that this terrible fire was owing to any subterraneous eruption, as some reported, but to three causes, which all concurring at the same time, will naturally account for the prodigious havoc it made; the first of November being All Saints Day, a high festival among the Portuguese, every altar in every church and chapel (some of which have more than twenty) was illuminated with a number of wax tapers and lamps, as customary; these setting fire to the curtains and timber-work that fell with the shock, the conflagration soon spread to the neighbouring houses, and being there joined with the fires in the kitchen chimnies, increased to such a degree, that it might easily have destroyed the whole city, though no other cause had concurred, especially as it met with no interruption.

With regard to the buildings, it was observed, that the solidest, in general, fell the first *, among which, besides those already mentioned, were, the Granaries of the public Corn Market; the great Royal Hospital in the Rocieu, that called the Misericordia, for the maintenance of poor orphan girls, most of whom perished; the fine church and convent of St. Domingo, where was one of the largest and noblest libraries in Europe; the grand church of the Carmelites, supported by two rows of white marble pillars, with the miraculous image of our Lady of Mount Carmel, who could not save her favourite temple from ruin; the old

* This circumstance seems to favour Dr. Stukeley's opinion, that earthquakes [illegible], owing to electrical shocks; and I remember, [illegible] in London, that the greatest force was reported [illegible] by those persons who were placed with their backs next [illegible] of the Courts of Chancery and the King's Bench, in Westminster [illegible], said to be not less than seven or eight feet.

Cathedral,

Cathedral, which was of an excessive thickness; the magnificent church of the regular Canons of St. Augustine, not much unlike our St. Paul's, though not to be compared to it for bigness, and reckoned by connoisseurs, the finest piece of architecture in Europe, where lay the bodies of the late King John, and several of the Royal Family, whose monuments, by the fall of the cupola, were crushed in pieces; the Castle, or Citadel, wherein the ancient archives and records were reposited; the Prison of the Inquisition, or Holy Office, as it is called, with that of the Limoeira, which was a palace of the Moorish King's, over which the supreme court of justice was held, for the trying of criminals. In short, it is impossible to enumerate the particular damages in buildings only; to say all in one word, every parish church, convent, nunnery, palace, and public edifice, with an infinite number of private houses, were either thrown down, or so miserably shattered, that it was rendered dangerous to pass by them. As to the people who lost their lives on this occasion, to say nothing of those who were crushed to death in their own houses, in some of which no less than forty persons were killed, (as a family lived on every floor) either meeting with immediate death, or having had their limbs broken by the fall of the stones in the streets; you may easily judge what prodigious numbers must have perished in the churches and convents, as the first shock happened at high mass, when they were assembled at their devotions. I have already given you some instances, and you may judge of the rest by what follows.

In the large convent of St. Francis, which consisted of near three hundred friars, the roof fell down as they were [illegible] in the choir, and, at the same time, a high gallery over the west door fronting the great altar, and buried all, except about eighteen of the community, with the numerous congregation below. In the monastery of Santa Clara,

one hundred and fifty of the nuns, with their waiting women; in that of the Calvario, which stands in the road leading to Belem, most of the nuns then in the choir, as well as a great part of the congregation in the body of the church, shared the same fate. The English nunnery was likewise thrown down, but whether any were killed I cannot learn. In the convent of the Trinity, I am credibly informed, above fifteen hundred were killed. Those in every other church and chapel suffered in proportion. In the prison of Limoeira, near four hundred were crushed by the sudden falling down of a wall, though the greatest villains there escaped to do further mischief.

The whole number of persons that perished, including those who were burnt, or afterwards crushed to death whilst digging in the ruins, is supposed, on the lowest calculation, to amount to more than sixty thousand; and though the damage in other respects cannot be computed, yet you may form some idea of it, when I assure you, that this extensive and opulent city, is now nothing but a vast heap of ruins, that the rich and poor are at present upon a level, some thousands of families which but the day before had been easy in their circumstances, being now scattered about in the fields, wanting every conveniency of life, and finding none able to relieve them.

Amidst such scenes of universal affliction, the fate of individuals may seem of too little consequence to be taken notice of; however I cannot forbear mentioning two or three instances, especially as I was acquainted with the unhappy sufferers, and believe you had some knowledge of them: the first is of Mrs. Perichon, who running out of her house at the beginning of the shock, in company with her husband, whom she followed at a small distance, was buried under the ruins of a building, which suddenly fell down before he perceived it; and when he looked back expecting to find her near him, there was not the least appearance

pearance of her, and to attempt any search in such a place, would have been only exposing his own life. The second is of a Mr. Vincent, who had been absent from Lisbon a considerable time, at a town called Martinico, eighteen leagues from Lisbon, but his ill fate prompted him to come to this city, at which he arrived upon the evening of the fatal day, in order to partake of some diversions; but he never left the house he slept in, being suddenly crushed to death before he was dressed, and buried in the ruins, which is the only tomb he is ever like to have, for though his friends after many fruitless searches, discovered, as they supposed, the remains of his body, they found them so putrid, broken, and scattered, that it was impossible to remove them. The last case is still more lamentable; it is of a young lad, brother to Mr. Holford of London, remarkable for his modesty and affable behaviour: he was walking through one of the streets near the front door of a parish church when the first shock happened, at which time he had both his legs broken by the fall of a large stone: in this miserable condition he lay some time, in vain beseeching the terrified passengers to take some pity; at length a tender-hearted Portuguese, moved by his cries, took him up in his arms, and carried him into the church, as imagining this a safer place than the open street; at this instant, the second shock entirely blocked up the door, and the body of the church being soon all on fire, the lad was burnt alive, with his generous assistant, and many other poor wretches, who hoped to have found there some shelter.

They have been employed now for several days past in taking up the dead bodies, which are carried out into the neighbouring fields, but the greater part still remain under the rubbish, nor do I think it would be safe to remove them, even though it were practicable, on account of the stench: the King, they say, talks of building a new city at Belem, but be this as it will, it is certain he will have no thoughts

of

of rebuilding the old, until those bodies have lain long enough to be consumed.

Thus, my dear friend, have I given you a genuine, though imperfect account, of this terrible judgment, which has left so deep an impression on my mind, that I shall never wear it off; I have lost all the money I had by me, and have saved no other clothes than what I have on my back; but what I regret most, is the irreparable loss of my books and papers. To add to my present distress, those friends to whom I could have applied on any other occasion, are now in the same wretched circumstances with myself. However, notwithstanding all that I have suffered, I do not think I have reason to despair, but rather to return my gratefulest acknowledgments to the Almighty, who hath so visibly preserved my life amidst such dangers, where so many thousands perished; and the same good Providence, I trust, will still continue to protect me, and point out some means to extricate myself out of these difficulties.

As the place is in such disorder and confusion, that the administration of justice is put a stop to, and it is not likely that any business will be carried on for some time I intend to take my passage for England as soon as a convenient opportunity offers. I am, &c."

A WHIMSICAL SIGN.

Upon the door of a house near Bridgewater, occupied by a father and son, the former a blacksmith and publican, the latter a barber, is a board, with the following inscription:—"Barnes and Son, blacksmith and barber's work done here; horse-shoeing and shaving, locks mended, hare curling, bleeding, teeth drawing, and all other farriery work. All sorts of spiratus lickers according to the late comical treaty.—Take notis my wife keeps skool and has fokes as is ill, teaches reding and riting, and other hanycatchers, and has a sist arists if required to each boyes, vizz, the mather mattick, and all other fashonabel operations."

Anecdotes

Artificial Manner of HATCHING CHICKENS, *in Egypt.*

[Described by an English Traveller, in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth.]

I WENT into a house, where I saw a very strange secret of hatching of chickens, by artificial heat or warmth; the like I had seen before at Grand Cairo, but not in such extraordinary numbers or multitudes as here; the manner whereof I will declare as followeth:—the country people inhabiting about this town, four or five miles distant every way, bring their eggs in apt carriages for the purpose, upon asses or camels, to this place, where there is an oven or furnace, purposely kept temperately warm, and the furner or master thereof, standeth ready at at a little door, to receive the eggs of every one, by tale; unless that when the number arises so high, (as to ten camels loading, or more,) then he filleth a measure by tale, and after that order, measures all the rest:—And I tell you this for a truth, that I saw there received by the furner, cook, or baker, in one day, by tale, and by measure, the number of thirty-five or forty thousand eggs; and they told me, that for three days space together, he doth nothing, but still receive in eggs; and at twelve days end, they come again to fetch chickens, sometimes at ten days, and sometimes (but not very often) at seven days, according as the weather falleth out; perhaps, some two hundred persons are owners of one rangeful, some having two thousand, some one; or more or less, as the quantities amount to; the furner noteth the names and portions of every bringer; and if he chanceth to have a hundred and fifty thousand, or two hundred thousand at one heat, (as many times it chanceth that he hath,) yet doth he mingle them all together, not respecting to whom they severally belong. Then he layeth them, or [illegible] upon his range, so near as they can lie, and touch each other; having first made a bed

a bed for them, of camels' dung burnt, and the place whereon the ashes do rest, is of a very thin matter made of earth, but mixed with the camels' dung in the making, and some pigeons' dung amongst it: yet herein consisteth not the secret only; for there is a concave or hollow place, about three feet breadth under it, whereon is likewise spread another layer of camels' dung, and under that is the place where the fire is made: yet, can I not righty call it fire, because it appeareth to be nothing but embers; for I could not discern it, but to be like ashes, yielding a temperate heat to the next concave; and the heat being resisted by the layer of dung next it, (which dung being green, and laid upon pieces of withered trees,) delivereth forth an extraordinary vapour, and that vapour entereth the hollow concave, next under the eggs, where, in time, it pierceth the aforesaid mixed earth, which toucheth the ashes whereon the eggs are laid, and so serveth as a necessary receptacle for all the heat coming from underneath.—This artificial heat, gliding through the embers, whereon the eggs lie, doth by degrees warm through the shells, and so infuseth life by the same proportions of heat: thus, in seven, eight, nine, ten, or sometimes twelve days, life continueth by this artificial means. Now, when the furner perceiveth life to appear, and that the shells begin to break, then he beginneth to gather them; but of a hundred thousand, he hardly gathers three score thousand, sometimes but fifty thousand, and sometimes (when the day is overcast) not twenty thousand; and if there chance any lightning, thunder, or rain, then, of a thousand, he gathers not one; for then they all miscarry and die.—And this is to be remembered withal, that be the weather never so fair, the air perfectly clear, and every thing as themselves can desire, and let the chickens be hatched in the best manner that may be, yet have they either a claw too much or too little; for sometimes they have five claws, some-

sometimes six, some but two before and one behind, and seldom, very few or any in their right shape. Afterwards, when the people come to receive their eggs, that they before had brought to the furner, he gives to every one rateably, according as the furnace yieldeth, reserving to himself the tenth for his labour.—Thus, have you the secret of hatching eggs, by heat artificial, at the town of Philbites, in the Land of Goshen, which, I think, were in vain to be practised in England; because the air there is hardly ten days together clarified, neither is there any camels' dung, though they have dung of other beasts every way as hot; therefore, when the Sun is in Cancer, Leo, or Virgo, you may, if you please, try what may be done. Perhaps some will think this to be a lye, or fable; but to such I answer, I can urge their credence no further than my faith and truth can persuade them:—And if thereon they will not believe me, let them take pains to make their own eyes a witness, and when they have paid as dearly as I have done, (for the sight of this and other things, cost me an hundred marks in fifty days,) their judgments will be better confirmed.

The GREAT GUN; *or, Turkish Piece of Ordnance, in St. James's Park: Being a circumstantial Account of its Capture at Alexandria in Egypt, and the placing of it upon the Parade near the Horse Guards.*

IT is to be presumed, that the present, as well as the former situation of this singular curiosity, will long remain distinguished in history. It may be recollected, that a handsome piece of brass ordnance, much more portable than this Turkish or Egyptian piece of cannon, stood on this part of the parade before, and was thought to have been removed, principally because it appears to have been the design of the conspirators under Colonel Despard, in Feb. 1803, to have seized upon this gun, and used it as

an instrument for the destruction of his Majesty and numbers of his peaceable subjects. If any doubt could be entertained of this horrid design, the evidence against Wood, one of the culprits, would sufficiently remove it. This desperado, it appears, said "he would contrive to post himself (being one of the guards) as sentinel over the great gun in the park, and load it, and as his Majesty's carriage was passing to the Parliament-house, fire it off, and blow the carriage all to pieces." Upon the evidence also of John Hubbin, it appeared, that when some of these persons were at the Oakley Arms public-house, the evidence being present, he heard one of them, Broughton say, "My boys, we have got the completest plan in the world, to do the business without any trouble: load the great gun in the park with four balls or chain shot, and fire it at his Majesty in the coach—he'd be d—n'd if it would not send him to Hell." This expression, shocking the witness, the latter said, "Do you consider how many lives you will take away." He then said, "d—n them, let them keep out of the way."—He also said, "the cannon would play hell with the houses about the Treasury." Some said the cannon would be too low; another said it might easily be raised an inch: and another objecting that it might miss his Majesty, Broughton replied, "Then, d—n him, we must *man-handle* him." Thus, the shocking design of these men, may be considered as the cause of the removal of that handsome piece of ordnance. But, to return to this Turkish piece of ordnance, which has succeeded that brass piece which was placed on the parade of St. James's in the reign of Charles II.; though its origin be doubtful, it is well known to have been taken upon a redoubt near Alexandria, which was occupied by the French in the famous battle of the 21st of March 1801. Like many of the [illegible] piece seemed to have been partly [illegible] which it was used, excepting the capacity of turning

turning it a little on either side. Other Turkish pieces, we are told, are at the Dardanelles, which are so long and cumbrous, that they can neither be moved nor used with safety.

Sir Robert Wilson, who seems to have no taste for antiquities, throws no light upon the capture of this curious piece of Turkish ordnance, on the 21st of March; he only remarks, that one of the two pieces of cannon taken that day, was an Austrian piece, and that the four horses that drew it, were killed. The curious piece now in the Park, when first taken was twenty feet long; but as we learn, being much battered and bruised in the muzzle, was afterwards cut down to the length of sixteen feet one inch.—It is of a fluted make, with raised-work of hieroglyphics, with two inscriptions on it, not yet decyphered; it is five feet three inches in circumference, seven inches and a half in the bore, and sixteen feet one inch long; its weight is eighty-four hundred, two quarters, and fourteen pounds: its carriage on which it is placed, is a new one, and stands seven feet high, and is about fourteen feet long. It is elegantly carved, and was executed by Mr. Ponsonby; it is also so well painted, that it is hard to distinguish it from bronze. The carved-work represents Britannia seated upon a Lion, with a complete View of Egypt and its Pyramids; a Crocodile lightly finished; a Turkish Sword, a Turkish Crown with G. R. and a Star and Garter. The breech of the cannon rests upon a Sphynx; and to protect it from the mischief which might be occasioned by the curiosity of the people who pass it, which it was brought home in from Malta in March, it was surrounded by a railing called [illegible]. But notwithstanding [illegible] which it was [illegible]

up on the parade. It had laid at Malta a considerable time, and had been likewise laid up at Woolwich, till it was removed to St. James's Park. His Royal Highness the Duke of York inspected it on the Sunday preceding, and so many people visited the spot on the same day, to witness the preparations making for its reception, that it was found necessary to call in a guard to keep off the populace; and a serjeant's guard was afterwards stationed at the post till a railing could be fixed up. When the cannon was placed there, a band of music played, the populace were so well pleased, that they gave three cheers!

On Friday May 14, his Majesty and the Duke of Cumberland, attended by Gen. Gwynne, visited the parade, and viewed this celebrated great gun, having never seen it before.

An Account of a REMARKABLE FISH, *taken in King's-Road, near Bristol, in a Letter from Mr. James Ferguson to Thomas Birch, D. D. Secretary to the Royal Society.*

[From the Philosophical Transactions, for 1765.]

Bristol, May 5, 1765.

THE length of the fish is four feet nine inches, and its thickness where greatest, or in the middle, about fifteen inches. The mouth is a foot in width, and of a squarish form; it has three rows of sharp small teeth, very irregularly set, and at some distance from each other: it has no tongue, nor narrow gullet, but is all the way down, as far as one can see, like a great hollow tube; in the back of the mouth within there are two openings like nostrils; and about nine inches below the jaw, and under these openings are two large knobs, from which proceed several short rows of a little below which, on the breast side, is another knob with small teeth. On each side which, and about a foot below the jaws, there are three cross ribs, somewhat resembling

resembling the strait bars of a chimney grate, about an inch distant from each other, through which we see into a great cavity within the skin, towards the breast; and under the skin, these cavities are kept distended by longitudinal ribs, plain to the touch on the outside. I put my arm down through the mouth quite to my shoulder, but could feel nothing in the way; so that its heart, stomach and bowels, must be in a very little compass near its tail, the body thereabouts being very small. From the neck proceed two long horns, hard and very sharp, not jointed by rings as in lobsters; and to reach almost to the back there are two considerable sharp-edged risings, of a black and horny substance. Between each horn and the head, there is a cavity, somewhat like the hollow of a human ear, but it does not penetrate to the inside. From each shoulder proceeds a strong membrane, about the width, towards the breast is extensive. [illegible] which one may thrust his hand and arm quite through to the opposite: and between these fins proceed from under the [illegible], some what like the [illegible] of a human hand, with five toes joined together, having the appearance of a tail. Near the tail are two large fins, one on each side, somewhat under the belly. The skin is of a dark [illegible], and is over spotted in several places, and [illegible]

AMAZING PROWESS OF THE ROMAN EMPEROR MAXIMIN.

[illegible] amazed, Maximin, [illegible] of the second, [illegible] man, whose [illegible] for [illegible] per[illegible] two [illegible] his [illegible]

ho

he lived. Soon after, his ambition increasing, he left his poor employment, and enlisted in the Roman army, where he soon became remarkable for his great strength, discipline and courage. This gigantic man, we are told, was eight feet and a half high; he had strength corresponding to his size, being not more remarkable for the magnitude, than the symmetry of his person. His wife's bracelet usually served him for a thumb-ring; and his strength was so great, that he was able to draw a carriage which two oxen could not move. He could strike out a horse's teeth with a blow of his fist, and break its thigh with a kick.—His diet was as extraordinary as his endowments: he generally eat forty pounds weight of flesh every day, and drank six gallons of wine, without committing any debauch in either. With a frame so robust, he was possessed of a mind unadorned in elegance, and neither feeling nor acquainted with fear. The first time he was made known was to the emperor Severus, who was then celebrating games on the banks of the river Orne. Maximin was at that time a mere country man, and requested the emperor to be permitted to contend for the prizes which were distributed to the wrestlers, runners, and boxers of the army. Severus, who loved to encourage the manners of the people, would not permit him to contend, as he was a mere country peasant, to contend with those who had been bred up to the exercise. He, however, gave him leave to try his strength upon seven of the soldiers, who had been conquerors in wrestling, one after the other. This was a trial of no small difficulty; but Maximin, undismayed, threw down the first, the second, the third, and so on, till he had conquered six of the seven. The seventh, however, was victorious, and Maximin was declared the second conqueror. He was now known to the emperor, and rose by degrees in his favour, till he was appointed to command a body of cavalry, and was stationed on the frontiers of Germany. Here he soon distinguished himself by his valour, and, upon coming to the empire, was

found to be one of the greatest monsters of cruelty that had ever disgraced power: fearful of nothing himself, he seemed to sport with the terrors of all mankind.

NEW DISCOVERIES AND INVENTIONS.

ANOTHER ANTIPAROS; *or, a* NATURAL GROTTO *discovered.*

IN the district of Falicon, near Nice, say the late Italian Journals, a grotto has been discovered; which, we are assured, in respect to its beauty, is equal either to that of the Sybil at Rome, or that of Antiparos. The entrance to this newly-discovered curiosity, is through a small eminence, and in its form bearing resemblance to an egg.—Its first appearance, at the extremity of this entrance, is similar to a saloon, tolerably regular, and sufficiently spacious to contain 100 persons. The alabaster pillars upon which it is supported are uniform, and beautiful in the extreme.—Citizen Barbesis, of Nice, has taken the pains to illuminate this grotto, and is now employed in making a drawing of the scene.

THE PELAGOSTOP.

M. COLLIN, a Swede, and by profession a mathematical instrument maker, has lately constructed an instrument calculated to discover any of the objects at the bottom of the sea, at least to a very considerable depth:—for instance, a piece of metal may be seen at the depth of 53 feet from the surface of the water, and darker objects from a distance of 27 feet.—And from a peculiar mode in the direction of this instrument, there is no difference in its discovery of objects under water, either in clear or cloudy weather.—Neither is the wind any hindrance to its operation, and it is at the same time so portable and convenient, that it may be managed by one person only.—It has lately been proved at Stockholm, and its utility accurately defined.

An

An account of a curious magazine pistol, which has been some time past used by Lord Camelford, in various parts of the world, has lately been published by Mr. Nicholson.—When loaded, it is capable of being discharged nine times successively through the same barrel, and is so constructed, that the use of it is neither attended with danger or uncertainty.

Baron Edelcrantz has presented to the Society for the Encouragement of Arts at Paris, a new lamp, in which, by means of mercury and a weight, the oil is made to ascend to, and remain at any particular height.

Cavalier Landolina, of Syracuse, has re-discovered the art of making paper of the *papyrus*, which grows abundantly in Syracuse.

STONES SUPPOSED TO HAVE FALLEN FROM THE SKIES.

Citizen Vaugelin, of the French National Institute, has lately procured specimens of the stones analysed by Mr. Howard, brought from Benares in the East Indies; from Yorkshire in England; from Sienne in Italy; and from Bohemia, to which he has joined those which fell in France in 1789 and 1790. He has remarked, as well as Mr. Howard, that these small stones resemble each other so exactly, that it is almost impossible to distinguish them. Different analyses have convinced him, that they all contain the same principles; namely, silex, magnesia, iron, nickel, and sulphur. All these results, with the experiments of M. Chladni, well known by his experiments upon the vibration of surfaces, concur to render it probable that the origin of the stones above-mentioned, is *exterior to our globe*, for hitherto no similar stones have been found in its interior.

It is further observed, that none of the stones emitted by any of the volcanoes hitherto known, have any identity with the stones presumed to have fallen from the sky.

A curious

A curious Description of the LARGEST BELL *in the World.*

[Versified by W. TANS'UR, Senior; 1772.]

The greatest Bell the World can show,
Is that in Russia; at Mosco.

THIS wond'rous bell, from skirt unto its crown,
Is nineteen feet, three thick its bole around;
Feet twenty-three diameter in skirt,
And more than seventy feet its circle-girt.
Its weight, (if, justly, Fame the truth resounds,)
Three hundred, sixty, and six thousand pounds;
And, if these pounds are right, and justly number'd,
They make three thousand, sixty, and six hundred.
Then, deem each score of pounds so many one's,
They'll make one hundred, eighty-three, in tons:
Should every hundred take one real pound
Of clapper weight, (to give its tone or sound;)
Then flight and ball must very nearly be
In hundred weights, the number thirty-three.
One hundred able men this bell can raise,
(Which only rings on some peculiar days;)
Whose pow'rful sway each artful ringer feels,
By well-made ropes which work on various wheels
Its frame being burnt by fire, it fell to th' ground,
Whereby 'twas broke, and lost its weight and sound;
More than two hundred men with ease may stand
Within the compass of its circle band:
This wond'rous bell's vast magnitude is seen
By th' Harp and Crown, on Howe's Hill, lofty Green.

The following FEATS *of* STRENGTH *are thought much of; but what are they when compared to the Strength of* TOPHAM.

A MAN lately, (May 1803) in the city of Chester, for a trifling wager, carried a load of 700lb. weight. This will, however, appear no extraordinary act, when compared

with the herculean feat performed by the present newsman of the Hereford Journal, on the Ross circuit (Turner.)—This man, about 33 years ago, when employed at the Castle Mill, near that city, for a considerable sum, carried three times round the town-hall, no less than twelve bushels of wheat, (the customary measure of ten gallons) amounting with the bags to the enormous weight of 972lb. and upwards. The wheat was contained in three bags of peculiar construction, one on each shoulder, the other thrown across, and lashed together.

A STRANGE PROPENSITY IN A PRINCE.

[Translated from the French.]

For Kirby's Magazine of Remarkable Characters.

Prince Bathiani, a descendant from one of the first families in Hungary; but who was an inhabitant of Rome in 1797, seems to have placed the highest pinnacle of glory in possessing the most exact and minute ideas of the game of chess.—If it were possible to realize the ideas of the celebrated Mr. Addison, and, according to him, to dissect and analyse the body of this Prince, nothing, it is presumed, could be found in his head or his heart, but the models of the various pieces made use of by chess-players, from the Pawn to the King.—He sees, he hears; he speaks of nothing but chess: chess is the first thoughts of his waking hours and the last of his slumbers. All the motives that move, agitate, or inflame other men, are to him lifeless and inert. "In vain (says M. Joseph Gorani) did I endeavour to detach him, but for a moment, from the precious chain of ideas which he caresses. The state of his country, to which I wished to recall his reflections, was [illegible], that he made no answer to my observations: but pulling a small chess-board out of his pocket, assured me it was made in London, by one of the oldest artificers in Europe, and best."

Remarkable

Resembling the ancient knights errant that ranged through hills and dales in search of able antagonists, this Prince has traversed all Europe to obtain the supreme enjoyment of putting some of the most accomplished chess-players at defiance. I have even heard that it was his intention to pass into Asia, to discover whether any of the descendants of Palamedes are in existence; but I am not informed whether he has realized this noble project.

Prince Bathiani's journey to Rome, however, had no other object but to find able players, whom he flattered himself he should be sufficiently skilful to confound. But though he has lost considerable sums in the pursuit of this idea, his passion has not been corrected by his disappointments. Presumptuous to excess, and but an indifferent player; yet instigated by the incitements of artful adventurers, more skilful than himself, he still continues to exchange his solid ducats for those fallacious eulogiums, which he receives with more relish and avidity, than if he really merited them.

Dining one day at his banker's, an Abbe, being a stranger, proposed a game at chess—accepted by the prince with great pleasure. Five times had the Abbe obtained an advantage; when some inattention throwing him off his guard, recollecting himself, he suddenly exclaimed—*What a fool am I! I was proceeding as if I had as much conceit as Prince Bathiani.* "Why, do you say, (answered the Prince) that you are as conceited as the Prince Bathiani?" "Because (replied the Abbe) I have heard many say, that this German Prince is a tolerable good chess-player; while unhappily, his presumption leads him to think, he is the best player in the world; though the proof of the contrary exists at Vienna, where he lost 70,000 crowns." That is true (answered the Prince) the loss was only 40,000 crowns." "Well, (said the Abbe) that proves him forty times a fool." It is needless to say, this party soon broke

up. The Prince paid, and went out abruptly. The Abbe soon learned that this was the Prince Bathiani himself; but was not satisfied, till following his carriage, he saw it proceed towards the place De Espagne; but this knowledge he confessed, only made him regret, that he did not make a better advantage of the opportunity which had escaped him.

A WONDERFUL INSTANCE OF SIMILARITY OF PERSON.

In the year 1727, Thomas Geddely lived as a waiter with Mrs. Hannah Williams, who kept a public-house at York. It being a house of much business, and the mistress very assiduous therein, she was deemed in wealthy circumstances. One morning her scrutoire was found broke open and robbed, and Thomas Geddely disappearing at the same time, there was no doubt left as to the robber. About a twelvemonth after, a man calling himself James Crow, came to York, and worked a few days for a precarious subsistence, in carrying goods as a porter. By this time he had been seen by many, who accosted him as Thomas Geddely.—He declared he did not know them, that his name was James Crow, and that he never was at York before. This was held as merely a trick, to save himself from the consequences of the robbery committed in the house of Mrs. Williams, when he lived with her as a waiter.

He was apprehended, his mistress sent for; and, in the midst of many people, instantly singled him out, called him by his name, (Thomas Geddely) and charged him with his unfaithfulness and ingratitude in robbing her.

He was directly taken before a justice of the peace; but, on his examination, absolutely affirmed that he was not Thomas Geddely, that he knew no such person, that he never was at York before, and that his name was James Crow. Not, however, giving a good account of himself, he rather committed himself to be a petty rogue and vagabond,

bond, and Mrs. Williams and another swearing positively to his person, he was committed to York Castle for trial, at the next assizes.

On arraignment, he pleaded Not Guilty; still denying that he was the person he was taken for. But Mrs. Williams and some others swearing that he was the identical Thomas Geddely who lived with her when she was robbed, and who went off immediately on the commitment of the robbery; and a servant girl deposed, she saw the prisoner that very morning in the room where the scrutoire was broke open, with a poker in his hand; and the prisoner being unable to prove an *alibi*, he was found guilty of the robbery. He was soon after executed, but persisted to his latest breath, that he was not Thomas Geddely, and that his name was James Crow.

And so it proved; for some time after the true Thomas Geddely, who, on robbing his mistress, had fled from York to Ireland, was taken up in Dublin, for a crime of the same stamp, and there condemned and executed.—Between his conviction and execution, and again at the fatal tree, he confessed himself to be the very Thomas Geddely who had committed the robbery at York, for which the unfortunate James Crow had been executed!

We must add, that a gentleman an inhabitant of York, happening to be in Dublin at the time of Geddely's trial and execution, and who knew him when he lived with Mrs. Williams, declared, that the resemblance between the two men was so exceedingly great, that it was next to impossible for the nicest eye to have distinguished their persons asunder.

An Account of a DREADFUL WHIRLWIND, *in South Carolina, in May* 1761.

On the 4th of May, at half past two, P. M. a most violent whirlwind, commonly called a typhon, passed down Ashley

Ashley river, and fell upon the shipping in Rebellion road, Charles Town, with such violence, as threatened the destruction of the whole fleet. This phenomenon was first seen coming down Wappo creek, like a column of smoke. Its motion was irregular, tumultuous, and swift in its progress. Its bulk, and its prodigious velocity, gave it such a surprising *momentum*, as to plough Ashley river to the bottom, and lay the channel bare; occasioning such a flux and reflux, as to float even sloops and schooners, which were before lying dry, at some distance from the tide.—While coming down Ashley river, its noise resembled thunder. Its diameter at that time was about 300 fathoms, and its height about 55 degrees. It was met at White Point by another gust, which came down Cooper's river, but not equal to the other; when the tumultuous agitation of the air increasing, the froth and vapour seemed thrown up to the height of 40 degrees; while the clouds driving in all directions to this place, seemed precipitated, and whirled round with incredible velocity. Just after this, it fell upon the shipping in the road, and was scarce three minutes in its passage, though the distance was near two leagues.—There were 45 sail in the road, five of which were sunk; and the Dolphin ship of war, with eleven others, lost their masts, &c. The damage to the shipping, is valued at £[illegible] sterling. [illegible] was done chiefly instantaneously; and some that were sunk, were buried so suddenly, as almost to prevent [illegible] getting upon deck, though only [illegible] were [illegible]. The strong gust which came down Cooper's river, [illegible] checked the progress of that [illegible] from Wappo creek, which otherwise must have driven the town of Charles Town before it like [illegible]. This column, first seen about noon, upwards of [illegible] W. by S. from Charles Town, destroyed in its course [illegible] negro huts, &c. on the plantations. [illegible] people and [illegible], with cattle, &c. killed and

and hurt; and in its way it tore up every tree and shrub. About four o'clock the wind abated, the sky was as clear and serene, as if no such dreadful scene had been so recently exhibited; only the sinking and dismasted vessels still remained, as so many melancholy proofs. The sinking of the five ships in the road was so sudden, that it was a doubt whether it was done by the immense weight of this column pressing them instantaneously into the deep, or by the water being forced from under them. Most of the disabled ships were towed up to the town the next day; and Captain Scott, of the Scarborough, appointed to convoy those able to put to sea, in the room of the Dolphin ship of war.

THE FOUNDER OF FAIRLOP FAIR.

"MR. EDITOR,

"OBSERVING in Number II. of your entertaining Magazine, an account of the Great Oak at Fairlop in Essex; I thought it would be more complete, if your Readers knew something of that singular character to which that tree and the fair held about it, owe all their celebrity.—The authenticity of the following anecdotes cannot be called in question. "I am yours, &c. J. J. E."

MR. DANIEL DAY, whose eccentricity was the cause of Fairlop Fair, was well known many years as an eminent pump and engine maker, in the parish of St. John's Wapping; where, to this day, his memory is respected as that of a great benefactor, particularly in his gift of the great bell at the consecration of the new church in 1760. Mr. Day was born in St. Mary Overy's parish, where his father was an opulent brewer. Mr. Day, after being in business some years, having a small estate near Fairlop Oak, was in the habit of going there every year about a fortnight after Midsummer, to receive his rents: and being of a convivial turn,

turn, it was his constant custom to invite a few of his neighbours to accompany him from town, and treat them with a repast of beans, bacon, &c. under the canopy of the oak, the accommodations being provided from the May-pole, a small public-house. At length Mr. Day's friends were so well pleased with the rural novelty, that they pledged themselves, one and all, to accompany him on the same occasion every year, the first Friday in July, during their lives.

This meeting being noticed by the neighbouring gentry, farmers, and yeomanry, they could not resist visiting the place annually, on Mr. Day's jubilee; and as suttling booths were soon found necessary, various others sprung up in succession around this huge oak; so that about the year 1725, this pleasant spot began to wear every kind of resemblance to a regular fair; and puppet-shews, wild beasts, fruits, gingerbread, ribbands, and toys of all sorts succeeding, this new generation of Mr. Day's creating, became his principal hobby-horse; and as he thought some return due to the lads and lasses who had paid him so much attention, he provided several sacks of beans and a sufficient quantity of dressed bacon, which were distributed from the trunk of the tree to the multitude in pans full; and this custom he continued till his death in 1767.

In the former part of Mr. Day's life, he usually walked to his favourite spot and back again; later in life, he rode a horse, but receiving a fall, he declared he would never cross another, and kept his word. He then kept a mule; but being again thrown into the mire, he discarded the mule as he had done the horse, and determined never to trust himself upon the back of any four-legged animal.—His next resource was a post-chaise; but again meeting with an accident, he was even resolved not only to ride no more in coach or chaise, but that his remains should be conveyed, as the safest mode, by water, to the place of burial. He next invented a machine to go without horses to Fairlop Fair,

Fair, which after two years of successful trial, broke down in attempting the third expedition.—The dernier resort of this wealthy tradesman, was a jockey-cart, in which, attended by music, he took his annual trip, up to the July preceding his death.

His favourite oak receiving a shock by a storm a few years before Mr. Day's death, it operated upon him like the warning of an old friend, and he set about that task with alacrity, the very conception of which would have made some men shudder. Under favour of the Lord of the Manor of Fairlop, he procured a limb of his favourite tree, and employed Mr. Clear, a carpenter, to convert it without delay into a coffin. This being brought home, neatly pannelled and highly polished with bees' wax, Mr. Day, looking with the greatest calmness upon his future habitation, and punning upon the carpenter's name, observed, "Mr. Clear, it is not very *clear* to me that you have made this coffin long enough."—Then laying himself down in it, "Never mind, (says he) if it be so, you must remind my executors to have my head cut off after my decease, and place it between my legs."

In bequeathing his property, as Mr. Day ever remained a bachelor, the fatherless children of his niece, eight in number, became his principal heirs; yet he still carried his harmless oddities to the last action possible, in ordering his executors to convey his corpse to Barking in Essex, by water, accompanied by six journeymen pump and blockmakers, as bearers, to each of whom he gave a new white leathern apron, and a guinea in money. Upon the birth of each of his niece's children, it was also his custom to present the mother with a gold coral, a pap-boat, and a purse of fifty guineas. The poor also found a liberal benefactor in Mr. Day, to many he lent money, always without interest, and often forgave the principal.

Mr Day, though by some persons deemed formal, was

an amateur in music, as it applied to dancing; to fashionable refinements, however, he had an insuperable aversion; for being once invited to a ball, where he was informed it would be necessary to wear ruffles of the finest point lace, and a pair of the same presented to him, he viewed them with some degree of contempt, and said, "if it was the custom he must comply; but it should be in his own way:" and ordering his housekeeper to get the lace dyed *green*, he wore them at that assembly, and upon all similar occasions. Mr. Day retained his health till within a day or two of his death, and his faculties to the last.

Mr. Day's kindness to his faithful servants was remarkable; he had an old housekeeper, who dying after she had lived with him thirty years, for her fondness for tea, of which he never drank any, he ordered a pound of green tea to be placed in each of her hands, and buried with her in her coffin; and knowing her to have been extremely attached to her wedding-ring, he would not suffer it to be taken from her finger, saying if that was attempted, she would come to life again.

With all his facetiousness, Mr. Day, as an old-fashioned tradesman, was a constant attendant at his own parish-church: and as much as possible would enforce the attendance of his nephews and nieces, their children, and his own servants, upon divine worship. In fine, he lived; as he would say, *merry and wise;* and dying in the 84th year of his age, was buried in his own oak coffin: and at Barking churchyard in Essex, the following inscription may be seen near his tomb, upon that of his sister, Mrs. Sarah Killick, who died in August 1782, in the 93d year of her age:

* A Woman remarkable for the Beauty of her Person, Sweetness of Disposition, and the Share of Health she also enjoyed through Life. [illegible] play at Cards, and read and work without

Life *and* Character *of the celebrated Mr.* Martin Van Butchell, *Surgeon Dentist and Fistula Curer, of Mount-street, Berkeley-square.*

Though eccentric individuals have lately obtained to such a frequency in research and recital, that ancient Biographical History no longer bears the palm, in consequence of the late numerous additions to this kind of entertainment; yet in the present subject of our pages, we flatter ourselves, that also those modern eccentric Characters that have justly superseded the former, amused the public, and promoted the laudable investigation of the moral composition of man, may still hide their diminished heads before that of Mr. Martin Van Butchell; who, as a person of uncommon merit and science, is, therefore, so much the more remarkable, by the singularities of his manners and appearance; because, as many others have made use of these means to excite that attention which they did not deserve, and to obtain credit for qualifications they never possessed, it will be found as an unusual deviation from this line of conduct in Mr. Van Butchell, that his singularities and eccentricities have tended rather unfortunately more to *obscure* than *exalt* or *display* the sterling abilities, which even the tongue of Envy has never denied him.

The father of this extraordinary man, was well known in the early part of the reign of George II. as tapestry maker to his Majesty, to which a salary of 50*l.* per annum was attached. Martin Van Butchell, the elder, whose family was originally from Flanders, was born in February 1736, in the parish of Mary-le-bone; but he afterwards settled with his father, in a large house in the parish of Lambeth, between Westminster Bridge and the Dog and Duck, to which a very extensive garden was annexed, and was then known by the name of the *Crown House*. His education was suitable to his father's circumstances; but as he did not like the profession of tapestry making, and at length rejected the business when offered him, it was natural that he should accept of other recommendations, which we were informed were not wanting, from the circumstance of gentry occasionally lodging in the house of his father for the

 sake

sake of the air, and its situation. It is to be noted, that as a ground-work of these recommendations, to the knowledge of the French language, and other accomplishments, a good character, and a prepossessing address, were no trivial stimulants towards his advancement in life. Hence, his first recommendation to the family of Sir Thomas Robinson, was for the purpose of that gentleman's making him a travelling companion to his son. This offer, however, from a misrepresentation of the temper and disposition of Sir Thomas, Mr. Van Butchell did not think advisable to accept of; but in lieu of the same, very soon after went into the family of the Viscountess Talbot, where, as Groom of the Chambers, he remained nine years. As this situation was probably lucrative, it enabled him, on leaving it, to pursue his favourite studies of mechanics and medicine, and particularly anatomy. And as the human teeth accidentally became a principal object of his attention, through the breaking of one of his own, and having engaged himself as a pupil to the celebrated Dr. J. Hunter, the profession of a Dentist was that by which he first appeared in the world as a public character. In this he was so eminently successful, that for a complete set of teeth, he is known to have received a price as high as eighty guineas.

And of one lady we have heard, that being dissatisfied with her teeth for which she had paid him ten guineas, he voluntarily returned her the money, though in a very early, and consequently not the most lucrative period of his practice; however, he had scarcely slept upon the contemplation of this disappointment, before she returned, soliciting the set of teeth which he had made her, as a favour, with an immediate tender of the price which she had originally paid for them, [illegible] back again accordingly.

Of another lady we have been told, who in the course of Mr. Van Butchell's practice as a dentist, exhibited a striking proof in her own person, that the character of the

painted

painted Prude, drawn by Mr. Pope, was by no means out of nature—the latter, when dying, directs her maid, saying,

> " And Betty give this cheek a little red,
> " One would not sure look frightful when one's dead !"

But the former, of whom we have just been speaking, when dying, expressly insisted that Mr. Van Butchell only, after her decease, should actually fix and replace the teeth in her head which he had made for her while living, and which he performed accordingly. We cannot say, that to obviate the stiffness that seizes the jaws, that it was necessary for him to begin his operations before the body was cold; but every one should know, that it is necessary to take an artificial set of teeth out of the mouth every night on going to sleep, and sometimes to steep them in water to preserve their whiteness; of course there is not the least improbability of the removal of this lady's teeth during her illness, and consequently her wish to have them handsomely restored after her decease, probably only for the reason urged by Mr. Pope's Lady,

> " One would not sure look frightful when one's dead !"

After successfully figuring as a Dentist for many years, Mr. Van Butchell became not less eminent as a maker of trusses for ruptured persons; and in the course of this practice his reputation had spread so far, that a person of eminence, as a physician in Holland, having heard of his skill, made a voyage for the purpose of applying to him, and was so successfully treated, that in return for the benefit he had received, he taught Mr. Van Butchell the secret of curing fistulas, which he has practised ever since with astonishing and unrivalled success.

While Mr. Van Butchell was engaged in making trusses, &c. he also made spring-waistcoats or a spencer, to set instead of braces to the small clothes; but being necessarily

sarily dear, it precluded them from coming into general use.—This kind of spring-waistcoat he now wears, or rather his shirt, his waistcoat, his breeches and stockings, are all in one piece or contexture of elastic worsted, all white from head to foot, which, contrasted with his bushy beard, had one time nearly thrown, not a lady, but the stouter heart of a gentleman, into a degree of terror, approaching nearly to fainting. This occurred in consequence of the former going into Van Butchell's stable when he was standing behind the door, and as it happened, without his coat, having at the same time a white cap on, and being without his boots. He likewise projected a surcingle for race-horses, which was presented to his Majesty, and consequently spoken of as a most ingenious contrivance.

Mr. Van Butchell, for many years past, being noted for the singularity and eccentricity of his manners, never excited more attention than after the death of his first wife; whom, for the extreme affection he bore towards her, he was at first determined should never be buried. Accordingly, with the assistance and direction of Dr. Hunter, the celebrated Anatomist, after embalming the body, he kept her in her wedding clothes a considerable time in the parlour of his own house, which, on that account, had the honour of being visited by great numbers of the nobility and gentry, who soon found, that though it was quite foreign to the intentions of Mr. Van Butchell to make a shew of his deceased wife, some consideration would not be a disagreeable return for the trouble and attendance which these visits occasioned.

Some say this resolution of keeping his wife unburied, was occasioned by a clause in the marriage settlement, disposing of certain property *while she remained above ground.* How far this may be fact, we will not decide; but we are now well-informed that she is since buried. One singularity in his manner of imposing terms upon his wives, is remarkable,

remarkable, and points out his astonishing propensity to every thing in direct opposition to other persons; that is, he gives them the choice of the two extremes, of black and white in clothes; and after they have made it, will not suffer them to wear any thing else. His first wife chose black; his present wife, white, which she always appears in. He also, it is said, makes it an invariable rule to dine by himself, and for his wife and children also to dine by themselves.—It is added also to be his common custom to call his children by no other method than whistling.

Respecting the management of Mr. Van Butchell's latter wife, an anecdote singularly characteristic of the man is in circulation. This gentlewoman, it is said, when he kept an housekeeper after the death of his first wife, was originally a servant under her; and finding the temper of her superior extremely unpleasant and difficult to please, at length took an opportunity of informing her master of the circumstance, and also of hinting her intention to quit his service. To remedy this, Mr. Van Butchell, it appears, replied in a few words; saying, that if she thought proper only to take a walk with him, he would effectually put an end to all occasion of complaint. This the young woman promised, and accordingly, instead of a simple walk merely for recreation or converse, her master, who had previously paid a visit to Doctors' Commons, led her to the altar, and made her his lawful wife. The cream of this business, however, was still to come. Upon their return home, the lady of the house, who had not the least conception of what had happened, began, as it is phrased, upon the young woman like a fury, for going out without leave, and leaving her mistress to get the breakfast ready. The young woman, no doubt, instructed how to act, soon allayed the thunder-storm, by another clap, which at once both silenced and astonished her antagonist; in telling her to walk out of the parlour, as she was then no

longer

longer the *maid,* but the *mistress* of the house; and that neither herself nor Mr. Van Butchell had any further occasion for *her* services. And as this unexpected news was duly affirmed by the grave Doctor and administrator of justice, submission was the only alternative that remained; while the triumph of one party, and the mortification of the other, may be more easily conceived than expressed.

Next to Mr. Van Butchell's dress, and the wearing of his beard, one of the first singularities which distinguished him, was his walking about the streets with a large Otaheitan tooth or bone in his hand; but some say it is the jaw-bone of an ass. The latter we believe to be the fact, as he says it is to defend man. This, in the hands of Martin Van Butchell, was only intended to deter boys from insulting him, as they were used to do, before his person and character were so well known, as they were in the course of a few years after he came to reside in Mount Street, Berkeley Square. A string is fastened to this implement, which he attaches to his wrist.

Soon after his being in Mount Street, he had the following notice painted upon the front of his house:—

BY

HIS MAJESTY's

Thus, said sneaking Jack, I'll be first; if I get my Money, ROYAL speaking like himself, I don't care who suffers.

LETTERS PATENT,

MARTIN

VAN BUTCHELL's

NEW-INVENTED

With caustic care—and old Phim

SPRING BANDS

AND FASTENINGS

Sometimes in six days, and always ten—the Fistula in Ano.

FOR

FOR
THE APPAREL
AND FURNITURE
July 6.
OF
Licensed to deal in Perfumery, i. e.
HUMANE BEINGS
Hydrophobia cured in thirty days,
AND
BRUTE CREATURES.
made of Milk and Honey.

which remained some years. But his next door neighbour thinking proper to rebuild part of his front, he obliterated half of the notice, which had before run from Mr. Van Butchell's house over his own. But for the gratification of our readers, we have obtained a copy of the whole; and in order to understand this the better, some years ago he had a famous dun horse, and having some dispute with the stable keeper, the horse was detained by the latter to pay for his keep, and was at length sold by the Ranger of Hyde Park, at Tattersal's; where, from the character given him by Mr. Van Butchell, he fetched a considerable price. This affair was the occasion of a law-suit, and caused Mr. Van Butchell to interline the curious notice we before mentioned, with small gold letters, and nearly at the top of it, as follows:—"Thus, said sneaking Jack, speaking like himself, I'll be first; if I get my money, I don't care who suffers."

Probably this notice, which was the cause that attracted so many people to look at Mr. Van Butchell's house, occasioned his neighbour to obliterate the part that was upon his own. His eccentricities are very numerous, and we have only selected a few; from which it will appear, that

his equal will not easily be found. After he had lost his famous dun horse, he purchased a small white poney, which he will not suffer to be trimmed in any degree whatever.—The shoes for the poney he will always have made fluted, to prevent his slipping, and never suffers him to wear any other. His saddle is also of a curious make; in one of the stirrups he has lately fixed a piece of cork to keep his foot from slipping. The reason he gives for not using cork on the other side, is, that he cannot mount so well.—This said poney he sometimes has the humour to paint all purple; sometimes with purple spots, other times with black spots, and with streaks and circles upon his face and hinder parts; and of these various colours, he says each spot costs him a guinea.—He rides him in Hyde Park very frequently, especially on Sundays, and also about the streets of London. When he goes into the Park, to save a distance of going round, he dismounts his poney, goes on the other side of the railing, and holding out a biscuit, the animal leaps over to him, and away they go. The curious appearance of his horse and himself in the streets, generally collects a great concourse of people; for the one being painted, and the other dressed more resembling a Jew than any thing else, have a most ludicrous effect. His beard has not been cut or shaved since the year 1791: his hat is shallow and narrow brimmed, and though originally black, is now almost white with age: his coat, a kind of russet brown, he has also worn a number of years, with an old pair of boots the colour of his hat. He has a most curious bridle which he occasionally uses: to the head of it is fixed a blind, which in case of the horse taking fright, or startling, he can let down over his horse's eyes, and draw up again at pleasure. And this he also does, if there be any object which he does not think fit the horse should see. He once rode his poney a race against a high bay horse in Hyde Park for a wager, and beat him. In a conversation with a gentleman the other

other day, to whom he presented some of his famous coffee which he sells in packets, he observed, "it was made from every thing good, and nothing bad." The gentleman remarked, that he and his friends might want more if they found it good; to which he replied, "he would supply them all, for a bit of gold now and then."—As well as to purchase his cork stirrups, he wanted to persuade a gentleman in the army to send the saddles to him belonging to the whole regiment, and not to suffer the horses to be trimmed any more: saying, the ancients never suffered their horses to be trimmed. He never allows his own favourite poney to go into a farrier's shop, because the hammering, he says, hurts the horse's hearing; and for this poney, he says he would not take an hundred guineas. Not from any thing like narrow circumstances, but from one of his own peculiar whims, a very short time since, he used also to sell apples, nuts, gingerbread, and half-penny cakes to children, at his door in Mount Street; or probably, this might be one means of keeping his own children employed. In one of his advertisements, it may be observed, that he notices the "Corresponding Lads." Mr. Van Butchell, probably to cure some of these of their infidelity, which they had imbibed from Tom Paine, used to attend on a Sunday evening in the Westminster Forum; where, as every one had a right to read or speak, Mr. Van Butchell always chose to read a chapter from the New Testament, which he never failed to deliver with uncommon gravity.—And this probably accounts for what some people have said about his being occasionally a *Preacher*.

In one of the advertisements under the name of Van Butchell, we recollect a kind of notice, that Lord Salisbury need not trouble himself about getting him appointed Dentist to the King! The fact we have heard was, that Mr. Van Butchell had previously applied to Lord Salisbury for that appointment; who, of course, not having his Majesty's

nomination,

nomination, could not answer his wishes; but after he had obtained it, it seems Mr. Van Butchell thought his refusal would enhance his consequence, more than his acceptance of it; and accordingly he made it the finale of his advertisements soon after.

Another anecdote is related of him; viz. that meeting his Majesty in Windsor Great Park, his Majesty knowing him, rode up, and addressed him thus:—"Mr. Butchell, how do you do—how do you like the day's sport?" To which his answer was, "Pretty well, I thank you, Sir." —And Van Butchell's curious bridle and blind, which he occasionally threw over his horse, did not escape his Majesty's attention.

It is not a little surprising, though the public have been so long used to Mr. Van Butchell, that the lower orders are not yet perfectly reconciled to the singularity of his appearance. It is only a few weeks since, that so many boys and others assembled about him while he was in Hyde Park, and endeavouring to mount his poney, who started and ran at the hooting and hallooing of these fellows, that for upwards of an hour he was not able to effect his purpose; but kept walking the poney round and round the great tree. Two gentlemen on horseback, however, at length pitying his situation, rescued him from this dilemma, and held the poney, till being enabled to mount him quietly, he rode home between them to Mount Street, unmolested.

Another time in the course of last summer, just as the Westminster Cavalry had broke up after a field day, Mr. Van Butchell being in the park with his poney, it took fright and threw him; happily he received no harm:—however, having mounted again, the cavalry beginning to disperse, and two of the corps, not thinking, or probably not caring for the consequences, rode after Mr. Van Butchell full speed, while the jolting of their swords and pouches renewing the fright of his horse, he again set off with

with his rider as hard as he could go, till he came to Cumberland Gate; this race, as it was called, affording most excellent sport for those who stile themselves *Lovers of Fun.*

With Mr. Van Butchell, Hyde Park is a favourite place. On Sunday mornings it is common for him to attend about the spring, above the Serpentine river, near the Guard-house, where he distributes the water to the people after he has added something to it, and shaken it up in a bottle, till it becomes very white. This water, it is then said, is of a very pleasant taste, and is probably medicinal.

It would further appear to be one of the foibles of this singular man to exhibit himself in eccentric habiliments as often as possible to the public view. On this ground, he is sometimes seen shaking a bottle with medicines in it, for an hour together, at his own door; and his painted horse, preparatory to his riding out upon him, is not unfrequently combed and accoutred in the same place, and in that public manner.

When he used to ride his other dun poney, concerning which he had a law-suit with the stable keeper, he had a curious pair of stirrups cut open on one side, on purpose to prevent the foot from hanging in the stirrup, in case of being thrown.

When at home in the forenoon, we are informed, Mr. Van Butchell always used to sit in the two pair of stairs front room; where, by the communication of a spring, he immediately knows when he is enquired for. When the shop tax was first levied, we are informed, that the commissioners wished to include Mr. Van Butchell's apartment where he saw patients, because a few teeth, spring-bands, &c. were there exposed to view; but as in reply to his objections, as they admitted that a free *egress* and *ingress* was the distinguishing quality of a shop, they were compelled to exempt him from the tax, as he soon convinced them that it was as impossible to get out or into his apartment

apartment without his instructions, as to have entered the bower of Fair Rosamond without the *clue* of *thread*, which, in the King's absence, was only confided to the trusty Knight, Sir Thomas ——.

We have before spoken of his inestimable beard; the accounts of the time he has worn it, certainly differ; but it is generally admitted that it is now about twelve years since. The original reason of this determination, we have been told, did not arise from the mere affectation of singularity, but from a philosophical conversation with the late celebrated Anatomist, Dr. John Hunter; in which, from the practice of the ancients, it was agreed that the wearing of the beard was conducive to the strength and vigour of the human body.—Probably for some such purpose, all the younger children of this extraordinary character were dressed in calico.

Still like some people who have any personal peculiarities, Mr. Van Butchell can bear to be pleasant upon his own—by tucking his beard, as we are told, under his neckcloth, in imitation or derision of the fashionables of the present day.—And yet though the virtues and the public utility of this extraordinary man and excellent physician, are by no means so well known as they merit, it is seldom, indeed, that he has been exposed, from appearance only, to any personal insult.—One instance we have heard of, was that of a footman or knight of the rainbow, who, presuming to take this venerable man by the beard, as he merited, had very nearly paid for his temerity, with the fracture of one of his ribs. This was done by a sudden blow with an umbrella, which the party offended carried in his hand; but as a warning to the unthinking, since that period, Mr. Van Butchell has thought proper to carry a bone when he goes abroad, in some degree resembling a battledore; and which is said to have been used as a warlike weapon in the island of Otaheite: others call it the

jaw-

jaw-bone of an ass. To use his own expression—"It is to defend man."

To sum up the component parts of the character of this singular personage, it seems that his native ingenuity, perseverance, and skill in his various professions, all producing a successful practice, have seldom been equalled; and to which, as we have noticed before, his eccentricities have served rather as a shade than a foil. These, of course, form no essential part of the moral character; and when assumed, are very seldom beneficial or profitable to the man truly upright. Of the qualities of Mr. Van Butchell's mind, there is the most undoubted testimony. The references which he makes to persons whom he has healed, in his advertisements, are not men of straw—mere non entities, as most of those names are, which are brought forward by constantly advertising quacks. On the contrary, speaking as we have found, they are not only living, but rejoicing,—they seem to consider themselves as almost raised from the dead—translated from the dreary regions of despair to those of joy and hope, and as having commenced a new existence; they, therefore, speak of their benefactor, not merely in terms of gratitude, but often in those of rapture. But to the multiplication of those happy instances, these salutary aids, and sweeteners of the bitter cup of humanity, sorry we are that any serious obstacles should exist. The fact is, that Mr. Martin Van Butchell, finding himself subverted by others in some of his favourite inventions, it has compelled him to raise the consideration for curing the Fistula to so high a price, that many now are probably compelled to languish and die for want of assistance. What is supposed by many, that Mr. Van Butchell's refusing to visit any patients whatever, with his manners and appearance, have been great hindrances to his profits, will not be controverted here. But if a person, thus possessing superior skill and ability, may be esteemed a public

a public blessing, all eccentricities being allowed for, it is incumbent upon those who have the means of bettering society, to remove such obstacles as may occur, and if possible, even to enlarge the sphere of individual, and particularly of *unrivalled utility*. But how difficult, we will not say impossible, it would be to persuade Mr. Van Butchell to rescind a resolution which he has once taken, may be inferred from a well known fact, of his refusing to attend a gentleman eminent in the law, at his own house; because he had before said in his advertisements, "*I go to none.*" Mr. Van Butchell, no doubt, had his reasons for framing this resolution at first; but the most extraordinary part of the business is, that we know he even refused *five hundred good solid reasons*, which were offered him for altering this *said resolution!* This singular determination of refusing 500 guineas did not rest here; the lady of the gentleman who was afflicted, we have heard, even offered 1000, and to send her carriage every morning to Mr. Van Butchell's house to fetch him. This, however, was to no purpose, the Doctor still referred to the words of his advertisement, "*I go to none;*" and expatiated very largely upon the propriety of the resolution he had taken. But here, if *obstinacy* is to be imputed to the Doctor, we presume that folly may be added to that of his more opulent patient, who chose rather to keep his alarming disease than condescend to attend upon the Doctor. Again, the secresy which is required in his manner of treating patients at his own house, may be a further obstacle to the enlargement of his practice, and also deter many delicate and timid persons from attending him. Male or female he suffers no third person to be present, and even bars the door of his apartment before he commences his operation, or rather his dressing; for as he never uses the knife, some people might falsely imagine that such an idea was intended by that term. We once heard, that it was his intention to bring

bring up his eldest son in his profession; but that the young man is since gone abroad. The character, which with all its oddities, the late Dr. John Hunter caressed and recommended, must surely deserve encouragement, if not preference; and if, as we have been lately informed, Mr. Van Butchell has considerably enlarged the sphere of his practice, by no longer confining it to Fistulas, &c.; we hope this may be some means of enabling the public more justly to appreciate his merits, who, either as an individual or a professional man, has so many strong and genuine motives to their recommendation, besides a large family of nine children.

As a proof of Mr. Van Butchell's general talents, we have been credibly informed, that when he first heard that Lord George Gordon died of a fever, he was extremely concerned, and expressed his certain persuasion that he could have cured him, had he known of his illness in time, having been a frequent visitor to him while in confinement. After that period, Mr. Van Butchell used his utmost exertions to prevent the fever from raging in Newgate, by the recommendation of various preventives, and by making it a common practice to pay a number of friendly visits to that prison, while a number of persons were confined there at the period when Tom Paine's Rights of Man, &c. made so much noise in the world.

Of Mr. Van Butchell's taste as a writer, the reader will make his own conclusions, from the following specimens of his advertisements taken from the public papers.

Causes of Crim. Con. Also Barrenness—And the King's Evil. Advice—new—Guinea; come from Ten till One: for I go to none. The Anatomist and Sympathizer, who never poisons,—nor sheds humane blood: Balm is always good.

Corresponding—-Lads—-Remember Judas:—-And the Year 80! *Last Monday Morning, at Seven o'Clock,* Doctor Merryman, *of Queen Street, May-fair, presented* Elizabeth, the Wife of Martin Van Butchell, *with her Fifth fine Boy, at his* House *in* Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, and—they—all—are—well. Post Masters General for Ten Thousand Pounds (—We mean Gentlemen's—Not a Penny less—) I will soon construct—Such Mail-Coach-Perch Bolts as shall never break!

Tender—hearted—Man. User of the Knife,—would'st thou cut thy Wife? (—Unless two * were by? Fearing her might die?—) Is—not—Blood—the Life?

* Alluding to the regular mode of eminent Surgeons, who seldom cut for Fistula and Piles, but in the presence of their assistants:—because, a few patients have died under the operation, and a few more have died, some days after the day of cutting. *Not so our Author:—Mais tout au contraire.* If the Empress of Russia,—the Emperor of Germany,—the King of Prussia,—*an Immaculate,*—or the Pope of Rome; were sorely smitten—with bad Fistulæ and tormenting Piles,—-visited Martin to be made quite whole: *Without Confinement,—Fomentation,—Risk,—Injection,—Poultice,—Caustic,—or Cutting: bringing two per Cent. of Five Years Profit.* ☞ Less *is* not *his* fee. Nor would he suffer a third person to be in the room. Not wanting help,—he won't be hinder'd; by half-witted spies; slavish informers: nor sad alarmists. All his patients live: and—Jehovah—praise.

To the Editor—-of a Morning paper.——*Ego-secundus.* Of God every man—hath his proper gift: glory be to him- -that mine is healing: (—Not miraculous,—nor by Satan's aid:—) being vigilant—while gay lads gamed at the tennis court,—I found it in Schools Anatomical.——

Fistula

Fistulæ and Piles—best my genius fit: very broad is art—narrow human wit: tho' man was complete: (—As he ought to be with an hairy chin.—) Lovely women hate fops effeminate.—Time approaches when among certain men—in another age beards—will—be—the—rage!

To many I refer—for my character: each will have the grace—to write out his case; soon as he is well—an history tell: for the public good;—so save humane blood: as—all—true—folk—shou'd. Sharkish people may—keep themselves away. *Those that use men ill—I never can heal; being forbidden—to cast pearls to pigs; lest—they—turn—and—tear. Wisdom makes dainty: patients come to me, with heavy guineas,—between ten and one: but—I—go—to—none.*

Master of Mankind: in a manly way.

In another advertisement he says, That your Majesty's Petitioner is a British Christian Man aged fifty-nine—with a comely beard—full eight inches long. That your Majesty's Petitioner was born in the County of Middlesex—brought up in the County of Surrey—and has never been out of the Kingdom of England. That your Majesty's Petitioner (—about ten years ago—) had often the high honour (—before your Majesty's Nobles) of conversing with your Majesty (—face to face—) when we were hunting of the stag—on Windsor Forest.

British Christian *Lads*. (—" Behold—now is the day—of salvation. Get understanding:—as the highest gain.—) Cease looking boyish—become quite manly! (*Girls* are fond of *hair*:—it is *natural*.) Let your beards grow long: that ye may be strong:—in mind—and body: as were great grand dads:—centuries ago; when John did not owe—a single penny—more than—he—could pay.

[illegible] *Phi-*

Phi—lo—*so*—fie—*sirs*.——" Heaven gives a will:—then directs the way." Honor your Maker:—And " *Be swift to hear: slow*—to—*speak*:—or—*wrath*." Leave off *de*forming:—each—himself—*re*form: wear the—marks—of—men: *In-con-tes-ti-ble!* Jesus—did not shave:—for He—knew better. Had it been proper—our chins should be bare, would hair—be put there:—by wise Jehovah? "Who—made—all—things—good."

Fistulæ—and—Piles, by *the* help *of* God—*we* eradicate. *Having* wit *enough*—to *heal* those *complaints*, my *small* fee *must* be—*twelve* heavy *guineas*: large, *six*-score *thousand*: We *mean* 2 *pr.* cent. *on* five *years* profit—*put* it *in* rouleaus, *of* an *hundred* each.—*Come* from *ten* till *one*:—for—*I*—go—*to*—none.

Sympathising—Minds!—" Blessed are they that consider the poor." Kings,—Princes,—Dukes,—Lords,—Knights,—Esquires,—Ladies,—" Or the Lord knows who," are hapless mortals!—Many do need me:—to give them comfort! Am not I—the first—healer (—at this Day—) of bad Fistulæ? (—With—an handsome Beard—) like Hippocrates! The combing—I sell—one guinea—each hair: (—Of use to the Fair; that want fine children:—I can—tell them how;—it is a secret.—) Some,—are quite—auburn—; others,—silver white:—full—half-quarter—long, growing (—day, and night,—) only—fifteen—months! Ye must hither come, (—As I go to none—) and bring—one per cent. of five years profit:—that's my settled fee: it—shall be return'd if I do not cure (—In a little time—) the worst Fistulæ: let who will—have fail'd! Lie telling—is bad:—sotting—makes folk sad! See (—Ananias—) Beginning Acts V. Pot-i-cary—bow—thy—friz'd—mealy pate! " Despisers,—behold—wonder—and perish!" " God—gives grace to man! Glory—be to God! He—doth all things well!"

Fistula

Fistulæ——Patients——Fee—is—according—to ability! let those—who have much give—without grudging! (—heavy guineas—down: I don't like paper;—unless—from the Bank of good old England.—) Plain folk—do comply—very readily: so shall—the gaudy:—or keep their complaints! Many—are in want—of food;—and raiment, for large families; such,—will be made whole—just so speedily as the most wealthy; "that's one right of man," and he shall have it: while God grants me health! (—Philosophers—say—"Mankind—are equal:—and pure religion—kindly—promotes—good."—) Lofty ones—read this,—then pause a little: down your dust—must lay; promises—won't do: I can't go away—to receive some pay from other people!

Though to the abovementioned advertisements many cases might be added, it is not less remarkable, that Mr. Van Butchell has by no means availed himself either of the number, or the desperate nature of those that might have been brought forward. It is however certain, that many of them would astonish belief, or otherwise appear next to miraculous; but conscious, that in this account we have neither extenuated nor aggravated any of the circumstances in the life of this truly extraordinary character, we now leave them to the consideration of every curious and candid reader.

London, *June*, 1803.

Particulars of a SHOCKING MURDER *lately committed by a Man of the Name of* HESKETH, *at Hollingwood in Lancashire.*

IT appears that Hesketh was a man of property, and had had several children (one only then living) by the deceased woman, who dwelt with him in the double capacity of housekeeper and mistress.—Frequent quarrels happening between them, accompanied with blows, the neighbours seldom interfered.

fered. Hesketh's house standing at some distance from any other; and on the evening which produced the horrid catastrophe, although a great noise was heard in the house by several persons passing, no one thought proper to go in.—The next morning early, a stream of blood was observed running under the door; an alarm was given, and a passage forced into the kitchen, where Hesketh was extended near the fire-place, with a pair of tongs in his hand much bent; and by the side of him his child, about three years old, wrapped in the shades of death, over which his arms were thrown, either for defence, or from a last effort of affection. The woman was lying at a small distance from them, not quite dead, still grasping a fire-poker; but did not survive above a few minutes.—Thus, drawing an impenetrable veil over particulars of the transaction: little doubt however remains, that the man and woman had fought with the poker and tongs, till loss of blood exhausted their strength; that during the affray the child had continued for some time to scream, and was at length silenced by violence, as the poor innocent's tongue was nearly torn out, and its body much bruised.

May 1803.

An Account of a BURNING WELL, *at Broseley in Shropshire; being Part of a Letter from the Rev. Mr. Mason, Woodwardian Professor at Cambridge, and F.R.S.; dated June* 18, 1746.

AT Broseley, in 1711, was a well found, which burned with great violence, but it has been lost many years.—The poor man in whose land it was, missing the profit he used to have by shewing it, applied his utmost endeavours to recover it; but all in vain, till May last, when attending to a rumbling noise under the ground, like what the former well made, though in a lower situation, and about thirty yards nearer to the river, he happened to hit upon it again.

That you may have some notion what it is, I will lay before you such an account of it, as the cursory view I had will permit.

The well for four or five feet deep is six or seven feet wide; within that is another less hole of like depth dug in the clay, in the bottom whereof is placed a cylindric earthen vessel, of about four or five inches diameter at the mouth, having the bottom taken off, and the sides well fixed in the clay rammed close about it. Within the pot is a brown water as thick as puddle, continually forced up with a violent motion, beyond that of boiling water, and a rumbling hollow noise, raising or falling by fits, five or six inches; but there was no appearance of any vapour rising, which perhaps might have been visible, had not the sun shone so bright.—Upon putting down a candle at the end of a stick, at about a quarter of a yard distance, it took fire, darting and flashing in a violent manner, for about half a yard high, much in the manner of spirits in a lamp, but with greater agitation. The man said that a tea-kettle had been made to boil in about nine minutes time, and that he had left it burning forty-eight hours together, without any sensible diminution.

It was extinguished by putting a wet mop upon it, which must be kept there a small time, otherwise it would not go out. Upon the removal of the mop, there succeeded a sulphureous smoke, lasting about a minute; and yet the water was very cold to the touch.

The well lies about thirty yards from the Severn, which, in that place, and for some miles both above and below, runs in a vale full 100 yards perpendicular below the level of the country on either side, which inclines down to the vale, at an angle of 20 or 30 deg. from the horizon, but somewhat more or less in different places, according as the place is more or less rocky.

The

The country consists of rock, stone, earth, and clay; and as the river, which is very rapid, washes away the soft and loose parts, the next successively slip into the channel, so as by degrees, and in time, to affect the whole slope of the land; and as the inferior strata yield coal and iron ore, their fermentation may produce this vapour, and force it to ascend with violence through the chinks of the earth, and give the water the great motion it has. This might be obstructed in one place by the forementioned subsiding of the sloping bank, and might afterwards find vent in another, in like manner as happened at Scarborough a few years since.

A gentleman writes, June 16, 1761; when I was there eight years ago, the cylinder had been taken up, or otherwise destroyed; the well no longer appeared any thing else but a miry hole of clay. Other waters had been suffered to mix with those of the burning spring, which, though they considerably diminished the effect, did not, however, wholly destroy it; for upon the application of a piece of lighted paper, a stream of clear flame shot up from the well, which very much resembled that of a tea-kettle lamp fed by spirits; but as we could not keep out the other water, the flame presently went out of itself.

I forgot now to what cause they told us this shameful neglect was owing; whether to a contest between two rival claimants to the property, or whether the curiosity of the circumjacent inhabitants had been fully gratified, it no longer attracted a concourse of visitants sufficient to reward the attention of the proprietor. It were to be wished, that some of the gentlemen in that neighbourhood, (which I have left now many years) would give us the present state of this wonderful phenomenon.

Circumstantial Account of the GREAT FIRE *of* LONDON, *which happened on Monday, September 2, 1666.*

[The reason of giving this Narrative a place in our Miscellany, is grounded upon the circumstance of the rarity of any particular account of this singular event; but to which the following, we presume, will be admitted as a satisfactory exception.]

AFTER twenty years civil war, a great plague, and an uncommon dry summer, this city, in the year and on the day above mentioned, that is to say, about one o'clock in the morning, was visited by a dreadful fire, which made its first appearance in Pudding-lane, near the Monument. This part of the town being closely built with old lath and plaister, it was so violent in its outset and its early progress, that people had no time to save any thing more than their lives; nor yet to think of means to resist the devouring element, before the expiration of next day; when as common fire-engines had no effect upon it, it had spread up Gracechurch-street, and downwards from Cannon-street to the water-side, as far as the Three Cranes in the Vintry.

But while most of the people, as the only means left them, were busily occupied in removing their goods from the houses which had not caught fire, some attempts were made to prevent the spreading of the flames, by pulling down houses, and leaving great spaces; but even this was in vain; for the fire seizing upon the timber and rubbish, it consumed every obstacle of a combustible kind, and is said to have continued in a bright flame all Monday and Tuesday, notwithstanding his Majesty's and his Royal Brother's indefatigable and personal pains to apply all possible remedies to prevent it. Not only the guards but a great number of nobility and gentry also assisted, and

were requited with a thousand blessings from the poor distressed people. However, by Tuesday night the wind had somewhat abated; and besides, the flames which were driven westward as far as the Temple, there meeting with brick buildings, they began to lose their strength. And on Wednesday morning, through the blowing up of a number of houses with gunpowder, a complete stop was put to the progress of the flames, at the Temple Church; at Holborn Bridge, near the end of Fleet Market; at Pye Corner; at Aldersgate; at Cripplegate, near the lower end of Coleman-street; at the upper end of Bishopsgate and Leadenhall-streets; at the Standard in Cornhill; the Church in Fenchurch-street; at the middle of Mark-lane; and at Tower Dock.

On Thursday, it might have been said to have been quite extinguished, had it not broken out again near the Temple, by the falling of some sparks upon a pile of wooden buildings. But here, the then Duke of York, brother to Charles II. having remained all night in person, was the cause of the flames being again subdued before day-light, by the blowing up of the houses adjacent to those that were on fire. But though the fire came up to the very gates of the Tower, the houses being previously pulled down, the powder, stores, &c. there lodged were carefully preserved. To remedy the inconveniences occasioned by so many people being deprived of shelter, tents and booths were erected, particularly in Moor-fields; and farther, to relieve those that were in immediate want, his Majesty ordered great quantities of biscuit to be sent there from Chatham; but as no monopolizers had then availed themselves of a temporary period of distress, the markets were so well supplied from the country, that most of the provision, the people being unused to it, was returned to the King's stores untouched.

This great fire, though it was not the destruction of the whole

whole city, however, destroyed full four parts of it out of five. The number of houses burnt were estimated at about twelve thousand, eighty-seven parish-churches, seven consecrated chapels, and the cathedral of St. Paul, together with the Custom-House, the Royal Exchange, and Guildhall, became the prey of the flames. In addition to these, were the Halls of the Companies, and in private warehouses a quantity of wine, spices, tobacco, &c. almost incredible. Still the greatest havoc was made in books. It was said by the booksellers, who then resided, as they do now, about the Cathedral of St. Paul, that having obtained leave, they sheltered their books in a subterraneous arch under that edifice, named St. Faith's, which was supported by so strong an arch, and such massy pillars, that it seemed impossible that fire could do any harm to it; but the fire having crept through the windows, it seized upon the pews, and so loosened the arch and the pillars, that when the top of the Cathedral fell upon it, it beat it flat in, and set all things in an irremediable flame.

The loss of books at St. Paul's Church, Stationers' Hall, and from other public libraries, was estimated at least at £150,000. The writer of the original account, from whence this is taken, says, he saw bells and iron wares melted, and glass and earthenware all in one consistence together. The largest and most solid stones, were split and scaled, and in some parts completely calcined. Yet the most miraculous circumstance he knew of was, that not above half a dozen people in all perished by that dreadful conflagration. One of them was an acquaintance of his, a watchmaker, living in Shoe-lane, named Paul Lawell, born in Strasbourg; who being about eighty years of age, and dull of hearing, was also deaf to the admonition of his son and friends, and would never desert the house till it fell upon him; his bones and his keys being afterwards found in the cellar. The whole loss of property on this

occasion, was estimated at about seven millions and a half. —There is also a traditionary report, that during this fire, an elderly woman, who was surprised by it, in a house in a corner near Angel-street, St. Martin's-le-grand, took refuge in the chimney, while the building fell, and by that means escaping unhurt, that place, from the name of the old woman, has been distinguished ever since by the name of *Nan's Hole.*

But this fire, though a *great calamity*, was also a *great mercy*; this will further appear from a contrast of the same, with the following account of the fire at Moscow in Russia, in 1571, including a description by an eye-witness, which we may safely pronounce, has in history no parallel. It is also considered by the most enlightened, that had it not been for these dreadful disasters, the plague, which used very frequently to appear, making the most destructive ravages, would have still continued, instead of ceasing, as it has done ever since. And in respect to the still more dreadful fire at Moscow, we find that also was preceded by a plague, which, in the course of four months, swept away above 250,000 people.

This extraordinary misery (the plague), was followed the year after, on the 15th of May, by a strange ruin and conflagration; the occasion was, that the Emperor of the Tartarians, being discontented that the Russians did not pay him some annual tribute; and hearing besides, that the Great Duke, by his tyranny and massacres, had so depopulated the country, that he should find no great resistance that way, did summon him to pay the said tribute; but the Great Duke returned nothing in answer, but spiteful and reproachful words: wherefore the Tartarian came out of his country about the end of February, followed with an army of 100,000 horse, who within the space of two months and a half, did ride about 500 German leagues, which make 2000 English miles. When they

were

were come about two days journey from the Frontiers of the Duke, he resolved to meet them, and to give them battle; but he lost it with a prodigious slaughter of his men. The Duke knowing that the Tartarian would seek him out, ran away as fast and as far as he could. He was only within nine leagues of Moscow, when the Tartarians came and encompassed the town, thinking he was within; they set a-fire all the villages round about it; and seeing that the war would prove too tedious for them, resolved to burn that great city, or, at least the suburbs of it. For this purpose, having placed their troops round about it, they set fire on all sides, so that it seemed a burning globe; then did arise so fierce and violent a wind, that it drove the rafters and long trees from the suburbs into the city; the conflagration was so sudden, that nobody had time to save himself, but in that place where he was then. The persons that were burnt in this fire, were above 200,000; which did happen, because the houses are all of wood, and the streets paved with great fir-trees, set close together, which, being oily and resinous, made the incendy unexpressible; so that in four hours time, the city and suburbs were wholly consumed. I, and a young man of Rochelle, that was my interpreter, were in the middle of the fire, in a magazine vaulted with stone, and extraordinarily strong, whose wall was three feet and a half thick, and had no air but on two sides; one wherein was the coming in and going out, which was a long alley, in which there were three iron gates, distant about six feet from each other; on the other side there was a window or grate, fenced with three iron shutters, distant half a foot one from another: we shut them inwardly as well as possibly we could; nevertheless, there came in so much smoke, that it was more than sufficient to choak us, had it not been for some beer that was there, with the which we refreshed ourselves now and then. Many lords and gentlemen were stifled

stifled in the caves, where they had retired, because, their houses being made of great trees, when they fell, they crushed down all that was underneath; others being consumed to ashes, stopped all the passages of going and coming out, so that for want of air, they all perished. The poor country people that had saved themselves in the city, with their cattle, from threescore miles round about, seeing the conflagration, ran all into the Market-place, which is not paved of wood as the rest; nevertheless, they were all roasted there, in such sort, that the tallest man seemed but a child, so much had the fire contracted their limbs; and this, by reason of the great houses that were round about, a thing more hideous and frightful than any can imagine. In many places of the said Market, the bodies were piled one upon another, to the height of half a pike; which put me into a wonderful admiration, being not able to apprehend nor understand, how it was possible they should be so heaped together.

This wonderful conflagration caused all the fortifications of the town-wall to fall, and all the ordnance that were upon it to burst. The walls were made of brick, according to the ancient way of building, without either fortifications or ditches. Many that had saved themselves among them, were nevertheless roasted, so fierce and vehement was the fire; among them, many Italians and Walloons of my acquaintance. While the fire lasted, we thought that a million of cannons had been thundering together, and our thoughts were upon nothing but death, thinking that the fire would last some days, because of the great circumference of the castle and suburbs; but all this was done in less than four hours time; at the end of which, the noise growing less, we were curious to know, whether the Tartarians, of whom we stood in no less fear than of the fire, were entered. After we had hearkened awhile, we heard some Russians running to and fro through the smoke,

smoke, who were talking of walling the gates, to prevent the coming in of the Tartarians, who were expecting when the fire went out. I and my interpreter being come out of the magazine, found the ashes so hot, that we durst scarce tread upon them; but, necessity compelling us, we ran towards the chief gate, where we found 25 or 30 men escaped from the fire, with whom, in a few hours, we did wall that gate, and the rest, and kept a strict watch all that night with some guns that had been preserved from the fire. In the morning, seeing that the place was not defensible, with so few people as we were, we sought the means to get into the castle, whose entry was then inaccessible; the governor was very glad to hear of our intention, and cried to us, we should be very welcome; but it was a most difficult thing to come in, because the bridges were all burnt, so that we were fain to get over the wall, having instead of ladders, some high fir-trees thrown from the castle to us: wherein, instead of rounds to get up, they had made some notches with a hatchet, to keep us from sliding. We got up then with much ado; for, besides the evident inconveniency of those rough ladders, we did carry about us the sum of 4000 thalers, besides some jewels, which was a great hindrance to us to climb along those high trees; and that, which did double our fear, was, that we saw before our eyes some of our company, that had nothing but their bodies to save, yet tumble down from the middle of those high trees into the ditch, full of burnt bodies, so that we could not tread but upon dead corpses, whose heaps were so thick every where, that we could not avoid to tread upon them, as if it had been a hill to climb up; and that which did augment our trouble was, that in treading upon them, the arms and legs broke like glass; the poor limbs of these creatures being calcined, by the vehement heat of the fire, and our feet sinking into those miserable bodies, the blood and the filth did squirt in our faces, which begot such a stench all the town over, that it was impossible to subsist in it.

After

After remaining a short time in the castle, finding that the Tartars had retired, the writer observes, that the few in the castle, and himself, left that desolate place.

SINGULAR POSTERITY OF THE DUTCHESS OF BLANKENBOURGH.

The Dutchess of Blankenbourgh, great grandmother of the present reigning Duke of Brunswick (1803), lived to see a posterity of 62 princes and princesses, of whom she beheld 53 alive at one time; amongst this offspring, were three emperors, two empresses, two kings and two queens.

A LIST OF REMARKABLE DEATHS.

Mr. Williams, a tailor of Maidstone, died there the latter end of the year 1795, very suddenly, on the road between that town and Dartford. He had a presentiment of a sudden death, and always carried a paper about him, that in case he died in such and such places, he might be carried to his friends who lived there.

An extraordinary circumstance attended the death of Mr. Greensmith at Nottingham, in the year 1796. He went to bed in perfect health; early in the morning, without dressing himself, he went to the street-door, and after telling his neighbours his hour was come, returned to bed and expired in a few minutes.

In the year 1796, died at Wordley Workhouse, Berks, Mary Pitts, aged 70; on being accused of having rummaged the box of another pauper, she wished God might strike her dead if she had; and instantly expired.

On March the 15th, 1796, died at Kilberry, in Ayre, Scotland, Mr. Wyllie, at twelve at noon; and at twelve on the same night, died his wife, aged 76: they had been 58 years married.

In

In the church-yard of Willingham, in Cumberland, an epitaph sets forth a memorable lad of that village, who, before he was a year old, had marks of puberty; before he was three years old, was above three feet and a half high; and before he was six, died as it were in an advanced age, in 1741.

EXTRAORDINARY ADVERTISEMENT, WHICH APPEARED JUNE 16, 1803.

To Men of Honour.—If it were asked at Delphos, why there is so much infelicity in human nature; the Oracle might urge, that it arose from the misapplication of our passions. If Sappho or Heloisa existed now, they might pine in vain for suitors correspondent with their elegant desires: yet there are such amiable beings; but they are denied the contemplation of high good, by the spells of ambition and wealth. The coarse may believe, that Love can triumph, independent of sentiment, and the assiduities of the Graces; but such persons are not organized for the supreme happiness; the laws of Cyprus are inapplicable to a table of interest. A refined spirit is anxious to participate in the enthusiasms of tenderness and sympathy, and tremblingly departs from her accustomed habits, to allure a kindred soul. A noble mind only can understand and appreciate the genuine tenor of this declaration.—Explicit letters directed for D. E. &c. &c.

Manner *of* drawing Lotteries *during the Reign of* Queen Elizabeth.

[*In the very early part of the reign of James I. that is, in* 1608, *a quarto pamphlet was printed in London, intituled,* "The Great Frost;" or, *Cold Doings in London; except it be in the Lottery:—Being a familiar Talk between a Countryman and a Citizen, touching this terrible Frost, and the great Lottery.*]

The description of the frost, the sports excepted, has nothing remarkable in it; but after a brief representation of the lotteries which had been drawn in the late (Queen

Elizabeth's) reign, the author of the pamphlet describes more particularly that lottery which was then carrying on in London by some foreigners; and how greedily the poor adventurers strove to make themselves beggars in it. The prizes in the lottery were all of plate, the highest worth a hundred and fifty, or threescore pounds. Though the tickets were but one shilling a-piece, to one prize there were no less than forty blanks. The manner of drawing seems to have been very tumultuous. The doors ever crowded, the room continually filled with people: every mouth bawling out for lots: every hand stretched forth to snatch them: both hands lifted up at once, the one to deliver the condemned shillings, the other to receive the papers of life and death. It is said to have been as diverting as so many comedies, to have seen the entrance into the place; but grievous to consider what tragical ends befel many of the poor housekeepers, servants, and others of that simple flock, who, in the end, were stripped and plumed in such a manner, as to have no more feathers left on their backs, than geese that had been newly plucked. Such infatuation was still more excusable than at present, since time has supplied so many fatal instances of its prejudice.

A SINGULAR CHARACTER.

THE village of Threlkeld, in Cumberland, a curacy, was once in the possession of a clergyman, remarkable for the oddity of his character. This gentleman, by name Alexander Naughley, was a native of Scotland. The cure in his time was very poor, only eight pounds sixteen shillings yearly; but as he lived the life of Diogenes, it was enough. His dress was mean and even beggarly: he lived alone, without a servant to do the meanest drudgery for him: his victuals he cooked himself, not very elegantly we may suppose: his bed was straw, with only two blankets But with all these outward marks of a sloven, no man pos-

sessed

sessed a greater genius; his wit was ready, his satire keen and undaunted, and his learning extensive; add to this, that he was a facetious and agreeable companion; and though generally fond of the deepest retirement, would unbend among company, and become the chief promoter of mirth. He had an excellent library, and at his death left behind him several manuscripts on various subjects, and of very great merit. These consisted of a Treatise on Algebra, Conic Sections, Spherical Trigonometry, and other Mathematical Pieces. He had written some Poetry, but most of this he destroyed before his death. His other productions would have shared the same fate, had they not been kept from him by a person to whom he had entrusted them. The state they were found in is scarcely less extraordinary; being written upon sixty loose sheets, tied together with a shoemaker's waxed thread.

Mr. Naughley never was married; but having once some thoughts of entering into that state, he was rejected by the fair one to whom he paid his addresses. Enraged at this disappointment, and to prevent the fair sex having any farther influence over him, he castrated himself, giving for his reason, "If thy right eye offend thee, &c." In consequence of this operation, he grew prodigiously fat, and his voice, which was naturally good, improved very much, and continued during his life. He died April the 30th, 1756, at the age of 76; having served this curacy 47 years!

ROGER CRAB; AN ENGLISH HERMIT.

THIS was a religious man, and one of the Sectaries, who, after the termination of the civil wars, during the usurpation of Oliver Cromwell, that is to say, in 1655, was living in a cave near Uxbridge. Being a zealot, he had served in the army of the Parliament, and between that period and

the time of his final retirement from the world, had kept a shop at Chesham, in Buckinghamshire. This he not only gave up, but sold a considerable estate to give to the poor, in compliance with what he esteemed a command, in Mark, chap. x. verse 21.—*Go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give it to the poor.* After this, he esteemed it a sin against his body and soul to eat any sort of flesh, fish, or living creature; or to drink any wine, ale, or beer.—It was even said, he would live upon three farthings a-week, as his constant food was cabbage, carrots, dock leaves, turnips, or grass; also bread and bran, without butter or cheese.

SINGULAR PRESERVATION IN AN UNCOMMON ACCIDENT.

On Friday, June 3, 1803, a brewer's dray with two horses, coming down Snow-hill from Cow-lane, a very deep cavity being dug for the foundation of a large house where the leatherseller's stood, one of the horses being restive, they ran against the rail put there to prevent accidents, and precipitated themselves with the man, who had hold of the fore horse, into the deep declivity. Having by the sudden motion detached themselves from the dray, it hung upon the brink; and though the three butts of beer rolled down from the dray in quick succession after the horses, to the farthest end of the cavity, happily neither man nor horse received the least injury. To release them from this untoward situation, and form a slope for their ascent, it was found necessary to dig away a great part of the wall and the ground.

On Monday, June 6, a coroner's inquest, held at the sign of the Hospital, near Mile-End Turnpike, on the body of Joseph Williams, landlord of the Three Cranes public-house, and those of his wife, her mother, and three children, who were all burnt to death on the Saturday morning preceding;

preceding; the particulars, as appeared before the Jury, were as follows: Mr. Williams sent a female child of his to a friend in White Horse-street, Stepney, on Tuesday, to be out of the way during Bow Fair; which child (with the exception of a daughter, who is married,) is now the only one of the family left. The cause of the melancholy accident cannot be discovered; some assigning one cause, and some another: the servant-maid, who is in the hospital, says, that when she retired to bed, at one o'clock, Mrs. Williams put a horse at the tap-room fire, with some wet clothes to dry. A little after two o'clock, the patrole discovered the house to be on fire, and gave the alarm; on which several persons assembled, and strove to break in the door, but could not. At length the windows were forced, but too late, as the fire was so rapid that no person could go in. Mr. Williams, and some of the unfortunate sufferers, slept in the one pair of stairs back room, the front room being a sitting room. It is believed, that when they awoke, the fire was too great for them to come out at the door; and, unfortunately, the windows were strongly barred with iron, owing to the house having been robbed last year. It is thought that Mr. Williams advanced rapidly in this dreadful dilemma to the window, as his body and four others were found together, and a sixth separate; on the arrival of the engines the exertions of the firemen were rendered useless for near a quarter of an hour, on account of the want of water. At that time the house was in a complete irresistible flame, and it is remarkable, fell in less than an hour after the first alarm. There were four lodgers slept in the attic story, three of whom made their escape out on the tiles, viz. a bricklayer, a carpenter, and his daughter, a child of thirteen years of age; the fourth, a drover of the name of Andrew Springet, thought to save himself by running down stairs; but finding the staircase in a blaze, he was forced to return; when the fire was raging with such

fury, that he could not get to the top, and had consequently to leap out of one of the three pair of stairs windows into the street, nearly in a state of nakedness, being in his shirt; his hands and thighs were much scorched by the fire, but he received no material injury from the fall.—The servant-maid was in the two pair back room, and made her escape by leaping out of the window. She was very much bruised, but had no bones broke, except one of her great toes. A Mrs. Williams, who lodged in the two pair front room, and whose husband was out on duty, being a patrole, threw a bed out of the window, and then leaped after it, but was very much bruised; she is sixty years old. Mr. Liptrap had his carriage sent for, and took the three to the London Hospital, about half a mile distant: they are in a fair way of recovery. The drover, Andrew Springet, came on Monday to the jury, in order to give his evidence. The six bodies were put into one shell or coffin, but so reduced, that they occupied no more than two-thirds of it. The poor survivors lost their whole property; the premises and stock were insured. It is thought there has been a very large amount of bank notes and cash destroyed, Mr. Williams being in a very good way of business. The following are the names and ages of the six, who unfortunately lost their lives; viz. Joseph Williams, the landlord, aged 43; Mary Williams, his wife, aged 38; Barbara Ford, her mother, aged 84; Esther Williams, the daughter, aged 14; Joseph Williams, the son, aged 12; and Richard Williams, the son, aged 10. The jury returned a verdict, *Accidental death.*

Tuesday the 7th of June, about three o'clock in the afternoon, a thunder-cloud passed over the metropolis, which during a short period exhibited a very alarming aspect; the discharge of the fluid was directly over head, and very near the earth, and was evident, from the flashes of lightning and the report of the thunder, the former very vivid, and

and the latter tremendously loud, happening both at the same instant. During the tremendous storm, which lasted about half an hour, the streets were deluged with rain. At the King's Arms, College-street, Westminster, the lightning struck the chimney of the house, which is damaged; the electric fluid entering the attic story, it was conducted by the bell-wires to the landlord's bed-room, and from thence down the staircase into the parlour, in which a number of persons were sitting, who fortunately received no injury. All the bell-wires were broke, except one, the communication being cut off, and some parts of them were melted into little balls, the size of a pin's head; the side of the staircase had the appearance as if smoked by a candle, as had also the parlour; the report was said to be equal to that of a 24 pound-shot from a cannon. In Parliament-street, and other places, persons walking experienced sensations as if receiving an electric shock. At Mr. Gosling's, Belvidere-row, Narrow Walk, Lambeth, it entered the garret window, and set fire to several of the apartments; but by the activity of the Westminster firemen, it was prevented from doing much damage. The thermometer in the morning rose several degrees above summer heat; but after the storm, in the open air it fell two degrees below the freezing point.—During the storm, a horse in a chaise took fright on the Kent road, threw out a gentleman, who was very much bruised, and laid in the road for some time unable to move, till he was relieved by one of the stages.

On Thursday evening, the 9th of June, at five o'clock, a most singular phenomenon took place in Panton-street, Hay-market. The inhabitants were alarmed by a violent and tremendous hail and shower storm, which extended no farther than Oxendon-street, Whitcombe-street, Coventry-street, and the Hay-market, a space not more than about 200 acres. The torrent from the heavens was so great, that it could only be compared to a wonderful cascade from the brow of the

the most tremendous precipice, for seven minutes, so that the cellars of all the inhabitants in Panton-street and Oxendon-street were filled with water. Astonishing to relate, in the midst of this hurricane an electric cloud descended in the middle of the street, and fell in the centre of the coach-way, and sunk in a great depth, without leaving a vestige or any particle of matter, but formed a complete pit. The smell of brimstone for some considerable seconds was so strong, that the inhabitants expected every minute to be suffocated. Mr. Maden, who keeps a public-house near the spot, had water and beer butts thrown flat from the stillions, and no other damage whatever done.

THE GROANING TREE, AT BADESLY, NEAR LYMINGTON.

THE history of the Groaning Tree is this: about forty years ago a cottager, who lived near the centre of the village, heard frequently a strange noise behind his house, like that of a person in extreme agony. Soon after it caught the attention of his wife, who was then confined to her bed. She was a timorous woman, and being greatly alarmed, her husband endeavoured to persuade her that the noise she heard was only the bellowing of the stags in the forest. By degrees, however, the neighbours on all sides heard it; and the thing began to be much talked of. It was by this time plainly discovered, that the groaning noise proceeded from an elm which grew at the end of the garden. It was a young vigorous tree, and to all appearance perfectly sound.

In a few weeks the fame of the groaning tree was spread far and wide, and people from all parts flocked to hear it. Among others, it attracted the curiosity of the late Prince and Princess of Wales, who resided at that time for the advantage of a sea-bath at Pilewell, the seat of Sir James Worsley,

Worsley, which stood within a quarter of a mile of the groaning tree.

Though the country people assigned many superstitious causes for this strange phenomenon, the naturalist could assign no physical one that was in any degree satisfactory. Some thought it was owing to the twisting and friction of the roots: others thought it proceeded from water which had collected in the body of the tree, or perhaps from pent air. But no cause that was alleged appeared equal to the effect. In the mean time, the tree did not always groan, sometimes disappointing its visitants: yet no cause could be assigned for its temporary cessations, either from seasons or weather. If any difference was observed, it was thought to groan least when the weather was wet, and most when it was clear and frosty: but the sound at all times seemed to arise from the root. Thus the groaning tree continued an object of astonishment during the space of eighteen or twenty months to all the country around: and for the information of distant parts, a pamphlet was drawn up, containing a particular account of all the circumstances relating to it. At length the owner of it, a gentleman of the name of Forbes, making too rash an experiment to discover the cause, bored a hole in the trunk. After this it never groaned. It was then rooted up, with a farther view to make a discovery, but still nothing appeared which led to any investigation of the cause. It was universally, however believed, that there was no trick in the affair, but that some natural cause really existed, though never understood.

THE LARGEST CHESNUT TREE THAT EVER EXISTED IN ENGLAND.

This Chesnut grows at a place called Wimley, near Hitchen Priory in Herefordshire. In the year 1789, at five

feet above the ground, its girth was somewhat more than fourteen yards, its trunk was hollow, and in part open, but its vegetation was still vigorous. On one side, its vast arms shooting up into various forms, some upright, and others oblique, were decayed and peeled at the extremities, but issued from luxuriant foliage at their insertion in the trunk; on the other side, the foliage was still full, and hid all decay.

Dr. Andrew Board, *the original Merry Andrew; or,* Borde: *In Latin,* Andreas Perforatus, *as he wrote himself.*

Was a native of Pevensey, in Sussex, and educated at Wickham's School, Oxford; but before he took any degree, entered himself among the Carthusians at or near London; yet, being weary of their severities, he returned to his University, applied himself to Physic, travelled almost throughout all Europe, and some parts of Africa. In the years 1541 and 2, he commenced Doctor of Physic at Montpelier, and on his return to England, was admitted to the same degree at Oxford. He lived some time as a physician at Pevensey, and afterwards at Winchester; and, lastly, at London. He was a man of great superstition, and a weak and whimsical head; he frequented fairs and markets, and harangued the populace in public; and to use the words of one of his cotemporaries, "He made humorous speeches, couched in such language as caused mirth, and wonderfully propagated his fame." From the Doctor's method of using such speeches at markets and fairs, it came that in after times, those who imitated the same humorous jocose language, were stiled *Merry Andrews.* He was author of the Merry Tales of the Wise Men of Gotham—The Introduction of Knowledge, a Poem—The Miller of Abingdon—The Principles of Astronomical

nomical Prognostications—The Doctrine of Health—The Promptuary of Medicine—and the Doctrine of Urines. He lived in the days of Henry the VIIIth, Edward VI. and Queen Mary: and after having been a Carthusian, professed celibacy still—drank water three times a week, wore a shirt of hair, and every night hung his burial sheet at his bed's feet. He wrote against such priests and monks as married after the dissolution of the monasteries.—But Bishop Poynet tells us, he kept three wenches, and so stained his pretensions to purity, as did some others; but some say, they were three women patients. Be that as it may, he was acknowledged a learned man, a good poet, and an excellent physician; and as such, was first physician to King Henry the VIIIth, and a Member of the College of Physicians, London.

The title-page of his Introduction to Knowledge, runs thus: "The First Book of the Introduction of Knowledge, the which doth teach a man to speak part of all manner of languages, and to know the usage and fashion of all manner of countries, and for to know the most part of all manner of coins of money, the which is current in every region." From this flaming title it appears, that the art of puffing was not then unknown to authors and booksellers.

A Work of his was printed in London 1575, intitled, "The Breviary of Health; wherein doth follow remedies for all manner of sicknesses and diseases in man or woman; expressing the obscure terms of Greek, Araby, Latin, Barbary, and English. Compiled by Andrew Boorde, Doctor of Phisicke."—A small quarto, printed in black letter. There is also a Jest Book of his writing, which is exceedingly scarce.

There is no doubt he was a man of considerable abilities and learning; for the period in which he lived, (says Dr. Tabor) "He is not mentioned in the Biographica Britannica, though many are inserted there of less note." He

died a prisoner in the Fleet, April 1549; yet it is probable, not for debt, because he left in his will, two houses at Lynn, in Norfolk, and his goods and chattels in his house at Winchester, to one Richard Matthew, whom he constituted his heir, without any mention of kindred at all.

In the first chapter of his Introduction to Knowledge, he has characterized an Englishman; and there is a wooden print of a naked man, with a piece of cloth hanging on his right arm, and a pair of sheers in his left hand. Under the print is an inscription in verse.—These are the four first lines:

"I am an Englishman, and naked I stand here,
"Musyng in my mynde what rayment I shall were:
"For now I will were thys, and now I will were that,
"And now I will were, I cannot tell what, &c."

He had such promptitude in writing, that it is said, he wrote his Treatise on Astronomy in four days, and with an old pen, without mending.

Account of the DEATH *and* BURIAL *of the notorious* Mrs. BRIDGER, *Female Chimney Sweeper.*

THIS woman died on the 24th of November 1802, at a great age, at her house in Swallow-street; she was commonly known by the name of *Mother Brownrigg*. The morning previous to her departure, she had taken a pint of gin. The conviction of her foreman, for his cruel usage to Peter Cavanage, a kidnapped child, for which he was sentenced to six month's imprisonment, made her, as she said, low-spirited, and therefore she drank harder than usual; for, at every ten minutes she had recourse to her glass, to keep up her drooping spirits. She knew that she must be brought to trial, and (from what appeared on the trial of her foreman) what she had to expect. Since the death of Bridger, about nine or ten months ago, with whom she lived as a wife, and whose name she bore, this cruel

cruel woman was, through intemperance, almost constantly confined to her bed, having very bad ulcerated legs, the relics of a cruel disease, which, through her hard drinking, were like to mortify. Every morning, during this period, before breakfast, she generally drank three or four glasses of liquor, and a couple of pints of beer; the remainder of the day she spent in like manner, in conversation with any person who came to enquire her state of health, and to whom she always complained that her spirits were very low, and then would take a glass from her bottle, which always stood by her bedside; sometimes, by way of amusement, she had one of her unfortunate apprentices brought to her bedside, and having stripped him naked, would make shift, bad as she was, to sit up and beat him in a most cruel and barbarous manner with a large stick, which she generally kept by her bedside for that purpose; at other times, when in good humour, she would have her apprentices brought to her bedside, and made to box each other, giving a piece of plumb-pudding or a halfpenny to the victor. She made the poor boys get up every morning at three o'clock, and go out, without shirt, shoe, or stockings, to sweep chimnies; when they came home, they were forced generally to scour the stairs, and do every other kind of drudgery before they got their scanty meal. Two or three days previous to her death, she sent for a Divine, to administer the Sacrament to her; but on his coming, finding her very much intoxicated, and instead of being penitent, railing at her neighbours, he took his leave, remarking, that it was not him she wanted. About an hour before her death, she ordered the carpet to be spread, that she might look somewhat decent when dead. She then ordered the boy to bring her a pint of beer; but, being somewhat tardy, she exclaimed, "You **** dog, make haste, or I shall be in hell before you come back!" He brought the beer, which she only tasted, being rather weak, and shortly after expired. She took a considerable quantity

quantity of laudanum before her death, which accelerated that event. After her decease, till the day of her interment, she was publicly exhibited, the neighbours and passengers wishing to see a monster, concerning whom they had heard so much. Before her departure, she conveyed her money to some particular friend. Thus ended the life of a woman who was a disgrace to her sex and to humanity, as well as the torment and scourge of all who had the misfortune to have any connection with her. The honest indignation of the multitude was never displayed more properly than at the interment of so infamous a character.—The most romantic imagination can scarcely conceive, a more horrid exit to an infamous and execrable life than the pen of truth describes on this occasion. It is to be hoped, that the world contains but few such persons, and that, when they do appear, they may only serve to render vice more detestable. Her remains were interred in St. Mary-le-bone burying-ground. The body was borne by four men belonging to an undertaker, with *two small sweeps* following as chief mourners. Next followed the *old woman* whom she had from the workhouse, to attend her during her illness. The latter was in black, having been left the mourning which the deceased wore for her late husband Bridger. The other *distinguished personages* who formed the chief part of the cavalcade, were composed of the *mobility*, who followed, loudly vociferating very hideous *mock* lamentations, with *ragged sheets of paper* in their hands as substitutes for *weeping handkerchiefs*. As she advanced to the place of interment, the concourse rapidly increased, the name of Mrs. Bridger exciting universal curiosity. We may unequivocally affirm, that a prince could not have more come through curiosity to see him buried, than had the notorious Mrs. Bridger, until such time as she was consigned to the earth. There was a Mrs. Voyer, the widow of another chimney-sweep, who supplied the deceased with money in her wants, in consider-

ation

ation of having the house, and some trifling effects, together with the good-will, after Mrs. Bridger's death. She owed Mrs. Voyer £70, and as a kind of security, she deposited her lease in her possession. She still continued to demand more money; and, having lost her custom, she commenced an artful project two days before her death; which was, to make over all her property, not excepting any thing, to a Mr. Woodward, for £15, without apprising him that Mrs. Voyer had a prior engagement.—He paid her the money on the 21st, and on the 23d he came to take an inventory of her effects. Seating himself by the bed, she began to state to him the articles which he was to enumerate. When she came to mention the silver spoons, which, she said, were in the drawer at her bed-head, the old nurse contradicted her, saying, "Surely you forget, you made me pawn them last night, and you burnt the duplicate!" She exclaimed in a rage, "I'll make no more of my will, until the ***** is turned out of the room!" When the inventory was completely finished for that room, they went up stairs, to take an account of what was there; she took that opportunity of having her clothes made up in a bundle, then took the ring off her finger, and made them be conveyed away privately to some person unknown, although they were twice before disposed of.

THE WONDERS OF NATURE.

THERE is an extraordinary tree of Japan which cannot endure any moisture. The moment it is wetted, it withers and dies, unless a speedy remedy be applied. If you wish to bring it again to life, it must be cut down close to the root, dried in the sun, and transplanted to a very dry soil.

The wife of Jean Gourdin, wood-cutter, living at Cigney, one of the suburbs of St. Dizier, was delivered on the 7th of June 1771, at the end of about seven months, of a monstrous child, weighing five pounds, and being fourteen inches

inches in length. This child, says Marisy, physician of St. Dizier, had two perfect heads. Each of them had two eyes, two ears, and was hairy down to the eye-brows.—The mouth of the head on the right side had three teeth in the upper jaw, with a hare's lip, whilst the lower jaw contained only one.

A similar instance occurs in Tulpirus, with this difference, that Tulpirus's monster was joined by the two heads, that its feet were turned inwards, and that the two arms were joined together behind its back down to the wrists.

In the month of December 1664, near the city of Salisbury, a woman who had been brought to bed of a daughter, was an hour after delivered of another female child, having two heads diametrically opposite, four arms, four hands, one body, and two legs. This monster, which lived about two days, took nourishment at both mouths, and evacuated in the usual manner.

In 1702 were born at Brest, two female children, joined together at the breast from below the paps, which were very perfect in both, to the common navel. They had between them but one heart, one liver, one spleen: but each had two kidnies and all the parts of generation.—They were each baptized individually, and both died soon after.

Mary Anne Collin, 39 years old, of the parish of Saint Remy, was delivered on the 22d of April 1776, at the commencement of the sixth month of her pregnancy, of five living and perfect female children, according to the report of the surgeon of the village, who was an eye-witness of the circumstance. There was but one placenta for the five children, all of whom weighed a pound each, excepting one that wanted an ounce. They exactly resembled each other. They all received baptism, but in returning from the church, they died one after another, in the space of an hour. The mother recovered. Her sister, married to a stone-cutter of the same parish, was delivered in July 1760, in the 8th month of her pregnancy, of three children, a boy and two girls.

The

The late WILLIAM JENNINGS, *Esq.*

A remarkable Character.

THIS gentleman is said to have been a neighbour and an acquaintance of Mr. Elwes of penurious memory. Mr. Jennings died in 1797, and in the 97th year of his age; leaving behind him property to the amount of nearly one million sterling. The character of this miser is in some respects different from that of the former, and although not quite so extravagant in his penury, he seems to have exhibited a more depraved mind. His father died when he was on the point of completing a most sumptuous and magnificent country-seat, which, for the grandeur of its hall, and the massy elegance of its marble chimney-pieces, as well as the beauty and extent of its stables and other offices, is totally unrivalled in that part of the country, and is excelled in few others. The staircase, however, and one entire wing of the house, which was to have been principally devoted to a vast and superb ball-room, were left totally incomplete; and notwithstanding the son, when he attained his majority, found himself possessed, in real and personal estate, of not less than £200,000, he never added another stroke to the unfinished structure, which remains to this moment in precisely the same state in which it was left on the decease of its more worthy projector. In this extensive palace, nevertheless, for it scarcely deserves a meaner appellation, Mr. Jennings resided, when in the country, to the latest hour of his life—yet not in the finished and family apartments, but merely in the basement floor alone, which, by being not less than 10 or 15 feet below the surface of the court, and illuminated by small and heavy windows, admitted but very seldom the reviving rays of the sun in any direction. Here, on a level with most of the offices of this superb pile of building, in the midst of his servants, was his breakfast-room, his

dining-room, and his bed-chamber, the entire furniture of which was of his own procuring, and consequently very mean, and its whole value perhaps not exceeding £20: nor were the rooms above, although (excepting those in the wing I have already pointed out) all completely finished and magnificently furnished by his father, ever opened but once during the whole period of his possessing them, which extended to nearly a century. He had, nevertheless, more family pride than Mr. Elwes, and maintained a table in some degree superior. In this dark and miserable compartment of the house his dinner was always served up, even when he was alone, and he was seldom otherwise, in family plate: nor, if any portion remained after the wants of his diminutive household had been satisfied, would he suffer it to be again introduced to assist in the dinner of the ensuing day. The poor, however, were never benefited by this profusion of diet; for it was his express order, and an order uniformly adhered to, that the surplus should be distributed among his dogs. He was never known, throughout the whole period of his life, to exhibit one single charitable action; and so cold and unsocial was his animal constitution, that a male friend was scarcely ever invited to sleep beneath his roof, and there is no instance of a female of any description having been indebted to him for the hospitality of a single night. In these respects he was a character infinitely more despicable than his neighbour, who at all times evinced the utmost degree of politeness and gallantry to the fair sex; and who, if he with-held his hand from the needy, with-held it in an equal degree from himself. In his mode of increasing his property, Mr. Jennings was also a more contemptible miser. Elwes, when in London, frequented occasionally the gaming-table, but it was to participate with his associates in the various chances of the dice. Jennings, too, frequented it, and was in reality, at one period of his life, an habitual attendant

tendant at Brookes's or White's: but it was not to partake in the multiplied fortunes of gambling, but to accommodate the unlucky with money for the evening, and to draw an enormous profit from the general loss. I have been informed, that for every thousand pounds he thus advanced, he received the next morning a thousand guineas. To enable him to persevere steadily in this profitable concern, he ventured to purchase a house in Grosvenor-square; where, indeed, he occasionally resided to the day of his death, and long after the infirmities of age compelled him to relinquish his nefarious traffic. Upon quitting either his town or country-house he was accustomed to draw up, with his own hand, an inventory of articles left behind, even to the minutest and most insignificant; and to examine them with the most rigid scrutiny on his return, to satisfy himself that he had not been wronged of his property.—The arrangement of this catalogue, when he was quitting the country, was attended with no small degree of labour; for, according to the fashion of our forefathers, almost all the chimney-pieces throughout the house had been left to him furnished with an infinite variety of pieces of china, minute as well as large: every little dog and duck, however, every little tea-cup, ewer, and other toy, was duly noticed, and expected to be found on his return, not only uninjured, but accurately occupying its immediate post.

To diminish the expence of wages paid to his housekeeper (or rather the old woman who kept his house), he used to allow it to be seen by strangers; and, like a noble duke and duchess of the present day, to permit her to add to her wages the gratuities offered on such occasions. The bargain being thus mutually acceded to, the house was equally open for inspection whether he were within it or not; and, in the former case, when the company had

reached the subterranean floor where he constantly resided, he used to remove from room to room till the whole had been visited. He maintained but a small circle of acquaintance in the country; he did not like, however, to be totally without occasional company, and induced some few gentlemen to pay him morning visits, and to profess a considerable friendship for him by the promise of legacies in his will. And so far indeed as related to the literal promise itself, he punctually fulfilled it—for he not only made his will, but bequeathed the expected legacies: yet he took effectual care, at the same time, that neither his promises nor his will should be possessed of much validity, for he never executed the latter; and his entire property, on his death, amounting to little less than a million sterling, was in the first instance likely to become the subject of a chancery-suit between two noble families who advanced an equal claim of heirship. This suit, however, was shortly afterwards dropped, upon an agreement between the parties to divide the property in tranquillity. The only trait I have ever heard creditable to the character of this miser is, that he never oppressed his tenants: he would never advance them a shilling for their accommodation, but he never raised their rents, nor distressed them for want of punctuality in their payments. And yet, while he thus rigidly forbore from every act of kindness and charity, he was, for the last twenty years previous to his death, losing upwards of two thousand pounds annually by the large sums of money he retained unemployed in the hands of his bankers. He kept cash at two separate houses; and it was discovered, at his death, that in one of them he had never possessed less than twenty thousand pounds for the twenty years previous: and in the other he had uniformly had a larger sum for a longer period of time.

MORE CURIOSITIES FROM EGYPT.

ABOUT the beginning of last month, a number of curious remains of antiquity arrived at Portsmouth, in a transport from Egypt; they are the property of the Earl of Cavan, and were put on board a vessel to be conveyed to his Lordship's seat at Fawley: among them are the following:—A case containing Mummies of an ancient Egyptian family, viz. a male, female, and two children, the gentleman measured 5 feet 9 inches in height, and as the upper half of the body had been stripped of the linen swathes, we could discern the flesh, the nails of the fingers, and even the features very distinctly, the arms were bent upwards, crossing each other on the breast, the fingers of the right hand touching the left shoulder, and the left hand clenched as if holding something. The lady measured 5 feet 6 inches in height, and the infant children about 22 inches; there were also mummies of an Ichneumon, a dog, two hawks, two owls, and six Ibis's, some of which were in covered urns of red earthen-ware; another case contained a complete mummy, with the external case beautifully painted with hieroglyphics; and several cases in which were a bust of Isis, a large frog in grey granite, a large slab of whitish granite, with hieroglyphics cut in bass-relief; a broken sarcophagus in black granite, and many antique fragments of marble porphyries, jaspers, agates, and masses of the various rocks of Upper Egypt, which will be highly interesting to the mineralogist, as well as amusing to the antiquarian; a perfect sarcophagus of red granite, its inside dimensions are 6 feet 6 inches long, 2 feet 4 inches wide, and 1 foot 6 inches deep—a large column of red porphyry; also a bowl of red granite, intended for the Lord Mayor of London: its out dimensions near six feet—it is cut out of the base of a Corinthian column, the mouldings are very perfect, and the whole height of the column must have been

about

about 54 feet: this will be a suitable piece of furniture for the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House.

From the same transport was landed at the gun-wharf, a brass cannon, being the identical one which was captured from the French while on its passage to St. John d'Acre.

Extraordinary Instances *of* Virtue *and* Generosity; *or, the dreadful Distress of a Dutch Merchant, who, after eating Part of his own Children, was compelled through Famine to murder himself, to prevent being the Executor of his Wife.*

In the year 1682, this person, named Van Essel, returning from the East Indies in the ship *De Ruyter*, of Rotterdam to Holland, they became suddenly becalmed, so much, that for several weeks they could scarcely determine whether they had made a single league. During this time an infectious disease increasing among them, sixteen seamen and the master died of it. Provision gradually growing shorter and shorter, after living four days without any sustenance, and the merchant's two children dying, on these bodies, notwithstanding the tears and intreaties of him and his wife, the crew were forced to feed. Their next degree of distress was to cast lots for violently undergoing the fate of death for the preservation of the rest; and it was also agreed that the person that drew number 1 should be slain, and the person drawing number 2, to be the executioner. The famished crew, however, would not excuse the Dutch lady from the chance of sharing the same fate with the rest, notwithstanding the exertions of her own servant-man, and George Carpinger, a stout English seaman, in her behalf; and the lot for death fell on this unhappy woman, and that of her own husband to be her executioner.—Cutting, indeed, were the lamentations of the husband and wife,

wife, that so fatal a mischance should ever part them; and though Carpinger and the merchant's servant stood resolutely against the rest and resolved to spare them, the merchant knowing their efforts would be useless, spoke to them in substance as follows:—"Honest friends, for such you have approved yourselves, you have seen the hardship of my fate; and since it is drove to this point, I am resolved never to be my wife's executioner—but to be the sacrifice in her stead; and therefore what I have to say is, that you stand her friends when I am dead—What is in this vessel, you know, belongs to me; spare nothing of it to serve her—and with these notes, if ever you arrive at *Rotterdam*, though all this cargo be lost, you shall be plentifully rewarded." Having said these words, which they heard with tears, being about to answer him, he drew a pistol from his pocket, and discharged it so suddenly through his head, that he died almost immediately.

The frantic grief of his unfortunate lady on this occasion, is not in the power of words to express. She would soon have followed his example in putting an end to her own existence, if she had not been prevented and narrowly watched by her servant and Carpinger; and as no intreaties could persuade her to join with the rest in partaking of the remains of her husband, all the while from the time of his death till it was again proposed to draw lots who should die next, she had no food but two rats, which were fortunately taken and presented to her by Carpinger. In this drawing, however, notwithstanding the persuasions of her friends, she was determined to take her chance; and when, strange to tell, she again drew her own sentence, which she welcomed more than a bridal day, and being just ready to yield her throat to the executioner's knife, she would certainly have fallen, had not Carpinger, with two more that he hired, stepped in and prevented it; and in so doing, as the rest of the crew drew their swords, four persons fell

in

in the quarrel, and among them her faithful servant.—The survivors being now reduced to five or six persons, besides the lady, these bodies lasted them some time; but just as they arrived within sight of the lands' end of England, they found themselves involved in another calamity, being driven so near shore by the large shoals of ice, that they could not disengage the ship. Here they were again compelled to remain, till all but two persons, besides Carpinger and the lady, were dead, and even these two were so reduced by weakness, that they could not leave their cabins. At length the persuasions of Carpinger upon the lady, not to use any violence to her own person being attended to, he ventured by the help of a plank, to attempt crossing the ice towards the shore, and taking charge of her and a casket of jewels, in six hours time they were safely landed, and as soon as convenient, took up a temporary residence at a private house at Plymouth; the master of which, in concluding this narrative, observes of Carpinger, that "the lady seems much to favour him; and when the time of mourning is over, will undoubtedly make him happy in her embraces." This narrative is dated Plymouth, Feb. 2, 1683, and attested by John Cross and William Atkins,—Seamen.

TO THE EDITOR OF KIRBY'S MUSEUM.

"SIR,—Your ready attention in inserting part of my communications, I acknowledge with pleasure; according to promise, I forward the remaining part of the list of Remarkable Deaths.—I intend shortly to send you several Remarkable Accounts, which, I flatter myself, will be found more worthy of insertion than the foregoing.—I approve of your Work exceedingly, as do a number of my friends, on account of its being *Original*.—Wishing you every success, I remain, yours, &c.

July 4th, 1803. A."

EXTRAOR-

EXTRAORDINARY DEATHS.

In August 1796, died at Crookhaven, near Cork, Patrick Grady and Eleanor his Wife: they were born in the same house on the same day: were married in the same house they were born in: fell sick at the same time, and died on the same day, after having lived 96 years. Their bodies were escorted to the grave by 96 of their children, grand and great grand children.

In the year 1797, died at Harpenden, Herts, Mr. and Mrs. Wetherell, of St. Alban's. Mr. Wetherell (who was 38 years of age) was not taken ill till his wife's decease; but after giving the necessary orders for the funeral, he took to his bed, and died one day after. What is very remarkable, Mr. Wetherell, for many years, was very desirous that they might both be interred on the same day, which they were, and in one grave.

In March 1797, died at Horsham in Sussex, Joseph Gutford, and on the same day, Mary his wife, each aged 78 years. It is extraordinary that the above old couple were both born on the same day, and died within two hours of each other They have since been interred in the same grave at Horsham.

In May 1797, William Maddison, of Sunderland, very much intoxicated, being warned by the bye-standers not to leap off the Quay into a Keel, which he was meditating: he replied with a volley of oaths, that he would go to hell in a flying leap: he instantly jumped off, and his breast having struck against the gunnel, caused his instant death.

On the morning of the action between the Portland packet and the Temeraire French privateer, off Guadaloupe, on the 14th of October 1796, Mr. Cunningham, a passenger, who, in a previous [illegible] sustained by the Portland packet with another privateer, had evinced

great courage, observed to the captain, that he felt a strong impression that his dissolution was at hand; and on the enemy bearing in sight, he went below and made his will, declaring his hour was come; returning to his station on deck, in a few minutes a bullet verified his prediction.

In December 1796, a young man named Graham, a resident of Lancaster, went to Workington, to fulfil a promise of marriage made to a young woman of that town.—On entering the room in which she was, he became indisposed, and tottering to where she sat, fell dead at her feet.

FOR KIRBY'S WONDERFUL MUSEUM.

HERMAPHRODITE.

At the Warwick Lent Assizes, in 1797, a prisoner in the gaol, was indicted by the name of Michael William Burdett Oliver, for an assault on a youth, with intent to commit an unnatural crime. Previous to any trial, it being suggested that doubts were entertained as to the prisoner's sex, it was thought advisable to have the prisoner examined and inspected by two surgeons and anatomists; which being done by Mr. Weale and Mr. Lipscomb, two eminent and respectable surgeons at Warwick, they made their report to the Court in writing, as under:—

"We find that the prisoner has the internal parts of gene-
"ration essential to the female, and the external parts of
"the male; but, in our opinion, without perfection."

Consequently, upon the above report, it was recommended that the prisoner should be acquitted, which was accordingly done.

The writer of the above vouches for the truth of it, being in Court at the time.

July 7, 1803. VERITAS.

The

The LIFE *of* JOHN OVERS *and his* DAUGHTER; *including the Account of the Origin of London Bridge, and the Church of St. Mary Overy's in the Borough of Southwark.*

BEFORE there was any bridge built over the Thames, the conveyance was by a ferry, which used to carry passengers &c. from Southwark to the city by boats; which ferry was rented of the city by John Overs, who enjoyed it for many years. This man, though he kept many servants, was of so covetous a mind, that he would not, even in his old age, spare his own weak body, nor abate any thing of his unnecessary labour, only to save expenses. From his first increase of wealth, he always put his money out to use, which in time grew to such a mighty increase, that it was almost equal to the first nobleman's in the land; notwithstanding, in his habit, housekeeping, and expenses, he expressed nothing so much as miserable poverty. This Charon had one daughter, both pious and beautiful; and he took care enough to see her liberally educated; but when she grew up, and fit for marriage, he would suffer no man (by his good will) to have any access to her. However, a young gentleman took the opportunity, when he was picking up his penny fares, to get admitted to her company. The first interview pleased well, the second better, and the third concluded the match. In all this interim, the silly, rich ferryman not dreaming but things were as secure by land as they were by water, continued in his former course, which was as follows:—He was of so poor and wretched a disposition, that, when he would not be at the charge of a fire, he has roasted, or at least heated, a black pudding in his bosom, and eat it; and has given his servants some of the pudding out of his bosom, which has been heated by his rowing over the water. Puddings were then a yard for a penny; and whenever he gave them their allowance, he used to say, "There, you hungry

dogs, you will undo me with eating." He would scarce afford a poor neighbour the lighting of a candle, lest they should in some part impoverish him, by taking some of the light. He has also in the night gone to scrape upon the dunghill, and if he could find any bones, he would bring them home in his cap, and have them stewed for pottage; and instead of oatmeal, he would buy the siftings of coarse meal, and with this make the poor servants their broth.—He bought his bread at the market, not caring how mouldy or stale it was; and when he brought it home, he cut it into slices, and laid it in the sun, that it might be the harder to be eaten. Meat he would not buy, unless it were tainted, and therefore would go further in the family; and when his dog has refused it, he said he was a dainty cur, and better fed than taught, and then eat it himself. He needed no cats, for all the rats and mice voluntarily left his house, as there were no crumbs left by his servants to feed them. It is farther reported of him, that, to save one day's expense, he first counterfeited himself sick, and the next day to die, and his body to be laid out, for no other purpose than to save one day's provisions; apprehending that, whilst his body was above ground, his servants would not be so unnatural as to take any manner of food till they had seen him in the earth, purposing to recover the next morning after the charge was saved; and with this he acquainted his daughter, who, against her own will, consented to satisfy his humour. He was then laid out for dead, and wrapt up in a sheet (for he would not be at the expence of a coffin); he was laid out in his chamber, with one candle set burning at his head, and another at his feet; which was the custom of the time. His apprentices hearing of the glad tidings, hoping to be rid of their penurious servitude, came to see the joyful spectacle, and supposing him really dead, began to dance and skip about the corpse. One run into the kitchen, and breaking open the cupboard, brought

out

out the brown loaf; another fetched out the cheese; and a third drew a flaggon of beer, and began filling their empty bellies (being almost starved), and rejoicing among themselves, thinking they were in expectation of future help and comfort, and to be freed from the hard usage they had endured. The old man lay quaking all this while to see the waste, and thinking he should be undone, he could endure it no longer, but stirring and struggling in his sheet like a ghost, and taking a candle in each hand, was going to rout them for their boldness, when one of them, thinking it was the devil in his likeness, in amazement caught hold of the butt end of a broken oar, and at one blow struck out his brains. Thus he, who thought only to counterfeit death, occasioned his own death in earnest; and the law acquitted the fellow of the act, as he was the prime occasion of his own death. The daughter's lover hearing of her father's death, made all possible haste up to London; but, alas! with more haste than good speed, for in riding fast, his horse unfortunately threw him, just at his entrance into London, and broke his neck. This, and her father's death, had such an effect on her spirits, as bereaved her of her senses. The father, who, for his usury, extortion, and the sordidness of his life, had been excommunicated, therefore was not allowed christian burial; but the daughter, for money, prevailed on the friars of Bermondsey Abbey, in the absence of the abbot, to get him buried; when the abbot came home, and seeing a new grave, enquired who, in his absence, had been buried there: on being truly informed, he caused the body to be taken up, and commanded it to be laid on his own ass's back (for it was the custom of the times for the heads of religious houses to ride upon asses), then making a short prayer, he turned the beast with his burden out at the abbey gates, desiring of God that he might carry him to some place where he best deserved to be buried. The ass went with a

solemn

solemn pace, unguided by any, through Kent Street, till he came to St. Thomas-a-watering, which was then the common execution place, and then shook him off, just under the gallows; where a grave was instantly made, and, without any ceremony, he was tumbled in, and covered with earth. This was the remarkable end of his infamous and abominable avarice. These disasters on the daughter coming one upon another, and being troubled with a number of new suitors, she resolved to retire into a cloister of religious nuns; and determined, that whatsoever her father had left her by his death, she would dispose of as near as she could to the honour of her Creator, and the encouragement of his religious service; and caused near to the place where her father lived, and she was born, the foundation of a famous church to be laid, which, at her own charge, was finished, and by her dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary; in memory of which pious act, and that her name might live to all posterity, the people added her name also to that given by her, and called it St. Mary Overs, which title it in general bears even to this day. London Bridge originated from the public spirit of the priests of St. Mary Overs. Before, there had been a ferry, left by her parents to their only daughter Mary, who founded a nunnery, and endowed it with the money received from the profits of the boats. This house was afterwards converted into a college of priests, who not only built the bridge, but kept it in repair: but it must be understood, that the first bridge was of timber, the materials at hand, and most probably rudely put together.

A striking Instance of the VICISSITUDES *of* FORTUNE, *has been related by* Dr. LETTSOM.

THE Doctor observed, that the following history of a Convict, was first narrated by Mr. Livius, a native of New Hampshire,

Hampshire, in America, and then Chief Justice of Quebec, under General Carleton. He was once in London, and on reading a Morning paper, he observed a paragraph to the following import:—"To-morrow, the noted house-breaker, Cox, and ——, of Piscataway, in New Hampshire, for returning from transportation, will be executed at Tyburn." The Chief Justice had never seen Newgate; and observing that a person from his native country was condemned to expiate his crimes on the gallows, was induced to visit this prison, and see his countryman. The convict had been an American sailor, and passing in a boat from the ship, lying off Wapping, to the shore, the boatman informed him that he could sell him some canvas, sufficient to make him a hammock, very cheap; the price was 16*s*. Within a short period afterwards, he was arrested for purchasing stolen goods; and proof being adduced to the Court, that the canvas was worth 24*s*. he was condemned to be transported to America, then under the Crown of Great Britain: this, he said, he did not much regard, as he could work his way thither, from his seamanship; his father lived in New Hampshire. Some time after his arrival in America as a transport, he hired himself in a vessel chartered to Lisbon, and which he understood was not to touch in England. The agent at Lisbon, however, received orders from a merchant in London, to load the vessel for the latter port: this at first alarmed him greatly: but he reconciled himself to the voyage, under a resolution never to go on shore while on the river Thames: he kept his resolution till the day before the vessel was appointed to sail, upon which occasion the captain had given all his men the privilege of going on shore, and taking leave of their acquaintance. The unfortunate American was the only sailor who did not accept the offer; the captain remained also on board, and recollecting something that he wanted in from shore, requested the only seaman he had with him to take the small boat, and scull her on shore, to procure what he

he then wanted: he made some excuses, till at length, by the persuasion of his captain, he consented to go on his errand; but scarcely had he stepped on shore, before he was recognized and arrested. In the presence of his judges he was identified, and the gallows was his sentence. Chief Justice Livius observing to him, that he seemed to have some comfortable food in his cell, inquired how he could afford to purchase it: he replied, that a person, he believed a Roman Catholic Clergyman, gave him money, in hopes of his dying a Papist; but, added he, I am no Papist in my heart; and as for dying, I have hardships enough not to care so much about it as about my wages, which I want my wife and children to receive for me. He was asked if he knew Mr. Livius's family, which he described immediately. The whole history appeared to the Chief Justice to merit further investigation, and instantly he proceeded to inquire respecting the circumstances attending the chartering and sailing of the ship, and also the particulars of the original trial and subsequent sentence, which corresponding with the sailor's narration, the worthy Magistrate hastened to Lord Weymouth's office, and thence to the King at Windsor, and returned to London just in time to stay the fatal rope. After the trials and circumstances attending them were revised, the King was pleased to change the sentence to transportation during his natural life, and he was shipped off from London soon after this act of mercy. Livius, however, who felt a lively interest in the fate of his countryman, whom he believed guilty from ignorance and not design, renewed his importunities, and at length got an order for pardon: he hurried with the glad tidings down the river, and overtook the convicts at Gravesend, where he found on board the transport-ship the poor sailor chained to another convict. He conveyed the convict to London, where a few merchants on Change, on hearing the whole transaction, collected 16 guineas, with which the tar, honest in principle, sailed a free man to the American Continent.

PARTICU-

Particulars *of the* Life *of the celebrated* Sir Richard Whittington, *thrice Lord Mayor of London, in the Years* 1397, 1406, and 1419.

[Never before collected.]

While all accounts of this great man and opulent citizen, are either locked up in cumbrous, expensive, or unwieldy volumes, and confined to the libraries of the learned, or disguised by silly and uncertain traditions, handed down to posterity; for the purpose of furnishing our readers with a more clear and comprehensive account of so worthy a subject, in addition to a portrait faithfully executed from a very ancient painting, we have availed ourselves of all the preceding accounts which could possibly throw any light upon Sir Richard Whittington's character; and from which, we may be permitted to repeat and assure the modern reader, that these particulars are only to be found in the pages of

Lives A Calendar of Illustrious Characters.

Of Sir Richard Whittington, of whose origin there are so many fabulous anecdotes, we learn very little till after the commencement of his public character in the reign of Richard the Second, in the year 1397, in which he was first made Mayor of London; further, than that King Richard the Second, and Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, were special Lords and Promoters of Whittington's fortune. The second and third times Sir Richard Whittington filled the Chair, was in the years 1406, and the last time in the reign of Henry the Fifth, in 1419, when he gave an entertainment to this monarch and his queen at Guildhall, after the conquest of France. It seems the king had borrowed money of him and of the citizens,

[illegible]

[illegible] dating

discharge his sovereign of all obligation, threw his bond for 10,000 marks due to the Company of Mercers, into the flames, with another of 10,000 marks due to the Chamber of London; a third due to the Grocers of 2000 marks; and a fourth of 3000, to several other companies, amounting in the whole to £60,000 sterling: and he afterwards informed his Majesty that he had taken the whole of those debts upon himself. This occasioned the King to say, "Never had King such a subject!" which Whittington hearing of, replied, "Never had subject such a King!"—But this generous action, as well as that of his cat, is not without its parallel in history.—The Emperor Rodolphus of Germany, being once upon his travels in the southern parts of his empire, a merchant of Ulm, to whom he owed a great sum, ordering a fire of cedar wood to be made, threw in the bond, and thus acquitted the Emperor of his obligation to pay him.

Mr. Pennant, in his Account of London, does not positively deny the good fortune of Whittington respecting his cat; but he would not omit saying, that this good fortune was not without a parallel also: for it is recorded, "How Alphonso, a Portuguese, being wrecked on the coast of Guinea, and being presented by the king thereof with his weight in gold for a cat to kill their mice, and an ointment to kill their flies: this he improved within five years to £6000 on the place, and returning to Portugal, after fifteen years traffic, became, not like Whittington, the second, but the third man in the kingdom.

It is to be noticed, that even the reports that have been handed down to posterity by tradition, agree with the most authentic documents of Whittington's history, with respect to the name of the merchant, that is to say, Mr. Fitzwarren, to whom he had been a servant; because, in his will, concerning the College of St. Esprit, founded by Whittington, which name it then was, the members were bound to pray for

for the souls of Hugh Fitzwarren and Dame Molde, his wife, as well as the fathers and mothers of Whittington and his wife Alice, hereby intimating that he had been singularly indebted to both; to the one for his *birth*, and to the other, most probably for his *fortune*.

If any thing can add to the strength of the traditionary reports concerning Whittington's rise from beggary to opulence, it might be derived from the circumstance of what is still called Whittington's stone near Holloway.—Here it is to be remarked, that tradition reports him originally a poor boy coming up to London, fatherless, and without either friends or acquaintance; when sitting down at the door of a Mr. Fitzwarren, a merchant in the city, he took him into the house to assist in his kitchen; but the usage he received from the cook-maid, to whom he was a perfect drudge, at length became so intolerable, that he determined to leave the house, and go back into the country. For this purpose, getting up very soon one morning, he reached Holloway, as before mentioned, when hearing Bow bells ring, and say, as he fancied,

Turn again Whittington---Turn again Whittington,
Thrice Lord Mayor of London!

he was induced to go back, and happily got home again, before the tyrant cook-maid or any of the family were stirring.

How Whittington came to have a cat, is easily accounted for: the old wooden houses, and the plenty of food in those times, were favourable to the breed of mice; and he, as a poor boy, being put to sleep in what is called a loft, or a garret nearly in the roof of the house, it is no wonder he should be pestered with these vermin in the night, to such a degree, that frequently running over his face, they hindered him from sleep. This induced Whittington to purchase a cat with a penny, a large sum in those days, it so happened that his master, being a merchant, outfitted his

servants an opportunity of sending something for a *venture*, by one of his ships named the Unicorn, that was going to the coast of Africa; Whittington having nothing but his cat, and unwilling to part with his favourite, it was most happily for him, accepted.

On the coast of Africa where the ship touched, the monarch's residence, and even his table were so pestered with vermin, that every attempt to destroy them had proved abortive.—But Whittington's cat being brought in, through the suggestion of the captain of the vessel, she made such havock, that the monarch and his queen were so pleased and surprised, that they thought no price too great for a creature of such amazing usefulness and activity.—The consequence is said to be, that the return for Whittington's venture was so great, that his master immediately advanced him from his servile condition; and seeing his industry and attention to business, first made him his son-in-law, then his partner, and dying, left him the whole of his trade, and which it will appear in the sequel, was no more than what was due to his integrity and the excellent qualifications of both his head and his heart.

It does not appear that Whittington was married more than once, for the daughter of this merchant was certainly named Alice, and was the person who, in his will, according to the manner of the times, is there designated under the title of Dame Alice, wife to Sir Richard Whittington.

The munificence of Whittington, it would appear, though he was an inhabitant of Vintry Ward, and near the Tower Royal, was felt and acknowledged all over the city. The library of the famous Church of the Grey Friars, near the spot where Christ Church, in Newgate-street, now stands, was founded by him in 1429. It was a [illegible] long, and 24 broad; it was ceiled with wainscot, [illegible] and 3 double [illegible] of [illegible]. In these

years it was filled with books to the value of £556, of which Sir Richard contributed £400, the rest being supplied by Dr. Thomas Winchelsey, a friar. This was about thirty years before the invention of printing. He also rebuilt Newgate, and contributed largely to the repairs of Guildhall.

Whittington, as well as his master, Mr. Fitzwarren, were both mercers. How long he lived is uncertain, as his Latin epitaph in the church of St. Michael, Paternoster, in the Vintry, where he was buried, does not specify his birth.—His will, however, is signed December 21, 1423, and the yere of King Henry VI. the thyrd after the Conquest of France.

In this church of St. Michael, in the Vintry, Sir Richard Whittington was three times buried; first by his executors, under a fair monument; then in the reign of Edward VI. when the parson of that church thinking to find great riches in his tomb, broke it open and despoiled the body of its leaden sheet, then burying it a second time. In the reign of Queen Mary, she obliged the parishioners to take up the body, and to restore the lead as before, and it was again buried; and so he remained till the Great Fire of London violated his resting place a third time. This church also, which his piety had founded, together with a college and almshouses for the poor, became the prey of the flames in 1666; though in 1630, the church cost the parishioners £[illegible] for repairing and beautifying.

The college and almshouses called Whittington College, with the garden, &c. was sold to Armagill Wade, in the second year of Edward [illegible]. The alms-houses which he founded for thirteen poor men, is still supported by the Mercers Company, of which he was a member, and in whose custody there is still extant in fair writing, the original ordinances of Sir Richard Whittington's charity, made by his executors, Bowyer, Carpenter, and Grove.—The [illegible] yearly distributes to presents the said Whittington

ington lying on his death-bed, a very lean consumed meagre body, with his three executors, a priest, and divers others standing by his bed-side.

The following is the Latin epitaph upon Sir Richard Whittington, in the church above-mentioned, which specifies

Ut fragrans Nardus flora fuit iste Ricardus
A fragrant Nard (*Rose*) *who flourished was this Richard*
Flos Mercatorum—Fundator Prosapiarum,
Sic et egenorum, testis sit cetus earum.
Quinque decemq; bina bina virens ornavit,
Condidit hoc templum Michaelis quem specialem
Regia sedes pias: divinis resonate laudes.
Pupillibus Pater & Major qui fuit urbis,
Mactus hunc vitam, cui Anna sit stella polaris,
Vivit ingloriis sed sibi Christo gratus. Amen.
Hic jacet Ricardus, generosus, probus, sapiens,
Jacobus.

That, stating in substance,—"That his reputation was like the fragrance of Nard—that he was the flower of merchants—the founder of pious establishments—the father of the poor—the hope and delight of the kingdom—that his pious spouse lies with him—and that he was the builder of that beautiful edifice."

It is particularly mentioned in the account of this foundation and college by Sir R. Whittington, that the church was newly built, and made a College of St. Esprit, or the Holy Ghost, by Richard Whittington, three time Mayor; for a Master, four Fellows, Masters of Art, Clerks, Vicaries, Choristers, &c. and an alms-house, called God's house, for thirteen poor men—one of them to be Cater, and to have bd. the week; the other twelve of them to have bd. the week, for ever, with other necessary provision, to watch with their bodies, at command, &c. The license for this foundation was granted during the Mayoralty of Whittington, in the reign of Henry IV. but was confirmed the third year of Henry VI. to John Coventre, Jenkin Carpenter, and William Grove, executors to Richard Whittington.

L

In this ordinance it is justly observed, that this worthy and notable merchant "while he lived" had right liberal and large hands to the needy; and on his death-bed straitly charged his executors to ordain a house of alms after his decease for perpetual sustentation of such poor people as has been before mentioned.

In the manner of those times, it was further ordered, that the thirteen poor folke be able in conversation, and honest in living.

The tutor to have a place by himself, that is to say, a cell or little house with a chimney, a prevy and other necessaries, in which he shall lye and rest, and without let of any other person, attend to the contemplation of God, if he will.

That the said persons in the aforesaid houses and cells, cloisters and other places, have themselves quietly and [illegible], without noise or disturbance of his fellows, being occupied in prayer reading, or the labour of their hands.

The clothing of these people shall be derk brown, not staring, nor blazing, and esey prised, according to their degree.

It was further ordered, that every tutor and poor folk every day, first when they rise from their beds, should say a Paternoster and an Ave Maria, with special and [illegible] recommendation of the foresaid Richard Whittington [illegible] to God and our blessed Lady Maiden Mary. And [illegible] days of the day, to say two of their [illegible] other prayers about the tomb of the founder within the Quire. At the completion, they that stood about, were ordered to say openly in English, "God have mercy on our [illegible] and all Christen."

The Ordinances of Whittington's College, which are [illegible] conclude thus:—

"[illegible]

[illegible]"

" Go litel boke, go litel Tregedie
Thee lowly submitting to all correction,
Of them being maisters now of the mercery
Olney, Felding, Boleyne and of Burton;
Herteley them beseeching with humble salutation
Thee to accept and thus to take in gre
For ever to be a servant
Within your Commonaltie."

The plate which we have now given, is the original portrait of this great character, though it was at first represented with a skull under his right hand, but that not being liked, it was altered to the Cat, as we have now presented it; and not more than two portraits of the former description were ever seen.

To conclude, making every allowance for the darkness and superstition of these early times, we think the example of Whittington may be brought forward, as still saying to others,

" Go thou and do likewise."

COLONEL SLOPER.

The father of this celebrated Colonel walked for seven years as a private postman between Headford and Ballinrobe in Ireland. He was ingenious, but so extremely poor, that not being able to purchase paper, he polished the shoulder-bone of a horse, and learned to write on it. Having occasion afterwards to go to London, he plied as porter to one of the offices in the Treasury, during the administration of Sir Robert Walpole; and in this time improved himself so amazingly, that on presenting a petition for relief to Miss Skerret, Sir Robert's mistress, she was so pleased with the correct writing of her own sex, that she procured him a small employment in the very office where he attended as porter. He afterwards [illegible] and died possessed [illegible]

CHARLES

CURIOUS ANTIQUITIES DISCOVERED IN THE ISLE OF DOGS.

On perusing the account of a Forest under Ground, (in No. II. of your Magazine,) the remains of which were discovered in the course of the digging of the New Docks in the Isle of Dogs, has induced me to send you other accounts of Antiquities found there, to be inserted (if deemed worthy) in your next Magazine.

Some time in the month of April 1800, the men at work upon the Canal, there found at the depth of six feet, a spur of uncommon dimensions; it measured eleven inches from shank to shank; it was quite black, but, on examination, the man who found it, discovered it to be pure gold. Sir Henry Banks purchased it for 35 guineas.—A few days afterwards they came to the skeleton of a horse, about the same depth, standing erect in a perfect state:—On being exposed to the air, however, it fell to pieces.

D. B. L.

TWO VERY EXTRAORDINARY DEATHS.

On Saturday July 16, a most remarkable circumstance happened in Wych-street near the Strand, opposite the gates of the New Inn. About ten o'clock in the morning, a woman very decently dressed, came up to a man who was coming that way, and attempting to lay hold of him, fell back and immediately expired. On being searched, there was nothing that could lead to a knowledge of her name, or who she was; for though some duplicates were found in her pocket, the articles appeared to have been pledged under some other names, as the pawnbroker declared he was unacquainted with the person of the woman. She was conveyed to the parish-workhouse, where, on the day following, the coroner's jury found a verdict of "*Died by the Visitation of God.*" But the most extraordinary part of

this circumstance is, that the man so accosted by the deceased woman, and who appears to have been a porter in the Brownlow-street Lying-in-Hospital; as soon as he came home, said he had received a shock, from which he should never recover, and died in the course of the same day.

The PLAIN *of the* CAFFRES, *in the* FRENCH ISLAND *of* BOURBON, *in the* INDIAN OCEAN.

AMONG those plains which are in the mountains, the most remarkable and of which nobody hitherto has taken any notice, is that called the *Plain of the Caffres*, because a troop of Caffres, the slaves of the inhabitants of the isle, went and hid themselves there after they had run away from their masters. From the sea side, one ascends gently for about seven leagues, to arrive at that plain: there is only one road to it, along the river of St. Stephen, which may also be travelled on horseback. The soil is good, and even till a league and a half before you come to the plain, and adorned with large and beautiful trees, the falling leaves of which afford nourishment for the tortoises which are very numerous there. We may reckon the height of the plain to be two leagues above the horizon; and it appears from below quite lost in the clouds. It may be four or five leagues in compass. The cold is insupportable there, and a continual fog, which wets as much as rain, hinders one from seeing ten paces forward. As night comes on, one sees clearer than in the day; but then it freezes terribly, and in the morning before sun rises, the plain appears all frozen. But the most extraordinary thing to be seen there are certain elevations of earth, cut almost in the form of pillars, round and prodigiously high, for they cannot be lower than the towers of *Notre-Dame* at Paris.—They are placed like a sort of nine pins, and so like one another,

another, that one may be easily out in reckoning them.—They call them *the spikes*. If one has a mind to stop and rest himself near one of them, those who go on to some other place must not advance above two hundred paces. If they do, they run the risk of never finding the place they left. The spikes, as they call them, are so numerous, all so like one another, and disposed so much after the same manner, that the Creoles, who are the natives of the country, are themselves deceived. To remedy this inconvenience, when a company of travellers stop at the foot of one of these spikes, and some of them have a mind to separate themselves, they leave somebody there, who makes a fire or smoke which serves to direct the other the way back again; and if the fog proves so thick as to hinder the sight of the fire or the smoke, they provide certain large shells, one of which they leave with the person who stays at the spike, carrying the other along with them; and, when they have a mind to return, they blow into this shell with all their force, as if it were a trumpet, which makes a very shrill sound, and is heard a great way off.—In this manner answering one another, they avoid losing themselves, and easily meet again.

There are abundance of aspen trees in this plain, which are continually green; the other trees are troubled with a moss above a fathom long, which covers their trunk and branches. They have no boughs with leaves on, but appear withered; and are so moistened with water that there is no making a fire with them. If, after much trouble, you get some of the branches kindled, you have only a fire without flame, with a reddish smoke, which smokes the victuals instead of dressing them. It would be difficult to find a place in that plain to make a fire in, except you pitch upon some rising ground about those spires, for the soil is so moist that the water springs out of it every where,

and one is always up to the calf of the leg in dirt and puddle. One sees there a great number of blue birds, which build their nests in the grass and crater-fern. This plant was unknown before the flight of the Caffres. To descend, one must take the same way one came up by, unless one has a mind to hazard oneself in another, which is very rugged and dangerous.

TO THE EDITOR OF KIRBY'S WONDERFUL MUSEUM.

"SIR,—If the following are any way worthy of insertion in your Periodical and Scientific Production, they are wholly at your service and discretion; and by placing the inclosed therein, you will much oblige,

Your constant Reader,

LINCOLNSHIRE, CAROLUS."
Spalding, JULY 1803.

ACCOUNT OF THE FUNERAL OF MR. RICHARD BUNN.

THE following account of a very singular funeral procession which occurred some time back, in consequence of the death of a Mr. Bunn, from his corpulency, &c. vulgarly called the Bag of Grains. This person, though originally a foundling of Stepney parish, and brought up to the driving of a dust cart, had amassed a great sum of money, and was the owner of a great many houses, which he let out in tenements in Shoreditch parish.

The rookery being (according to common report) in chancery, Bunn and some other people took possession of the same, when it was customary to sell a key for *5s.* which entitled the purchaser to an apartment, rent free, though such was often ejected by main force, dustmen, beggars, and prostitutes occupying the same as long as it remained tenable. In fine, the whole was repaired by Bunn, and let to considerable profit, till reclaimed by the real

real proprietor a few years past, when he purchased many others, where he died. Mr. Bunn, to the period of his death, retained the dress of a dustman, as he never wore any thing but a jacket, a short blue apron, and his garters below the knees. The procession began by twelve boys bearing links; after them twelve men with shovels, whips, &c. reversed. After this a favourite horse, which the deceased used frequently to ride on, not as a charger, but decorated with a pair of cloth spatterdashes affixed to a pair of nightman's poles, and implements of the like nature. This was succeeded with a cart covered with black baize, and drawn by four horses, which contained the body, in a very handsome coffin, and a large plume of white feathers, supported upon tressels, from which the pall descended, which was borne by twelve of the principal brickmakers and dustmen in the neighbourhood, dressed in white flannel jackets, new leather breeches, &c. After this followed another cart, ornamented as before, containing several people in black cloaks, supposed to be the friends of the deceased; and another of the same description, totally empty, closed the procession; though these were followed by a great number of carts filled with female cinder sifters, chimney sweepers, and others of the lowest class. They proceeded down Cock-lane, and through Bethnal Green to Stepney, the place of his nativity, with the greatest decorum. After the interment, the whole company of mourners were plentifully entertained at the expense of the deceased, at the Star in Kingsland Road.

A circumstantial Account of the MURDER *of* MISS MARIA BALLY, *at Bath; A. D.* 1795.

ABOUT two years since, William White came to Bath to work as a journeyman shoemaker. Being a Sectary, and frequenting one of those places of worship, he became acquainted

acquainted with Maria Bally, the daughter of a person of that name, who lived many years in Milsom-street, as a hair-dresser and perfumer, but who had been tenderly brought up in the family of her uncle, a clergyman, and succeeded her mother's sister, a few months since, in keeping a day-school for children in Corn-street. The acquaintance between White and the young woman, about a year since, kindled into mutual regard, and he appears to have been constant and fervent in his attachment. Some time before Christmas, he went up to London, and being employed there in collecting various sums of money, (as he said) for some relatives, he purchased a pair of brass pocket pistols, to protect such property as he might get into his possession. He shortly afterwards returned to Bath, when the same regard subsisted between them; sometimes, indeed, interrupted by slight quarrels. Thus, at length, they began seriously to think of marriage—the furnishing of an apartment was talked of, and the disclosure of their intentions to her friends seemed to have been resolved upon. However, at this juncture, the young woman supposing she had detected him in some untruths, suddenly resolved to break off the connection.

On the Sunday night she gave him a peremptory refusal, and insisted upon never seeing him again. The following evening he went down to her house, but finding the window-shutters closed, and the door locked, he retired, supposing her either to be gone to bed, or engaged in the neighbourhood.

When he arose on Tuesday morning, the dreadful resolve of murdering the object of his affection, seems first to have entered his mind. His pistols being pledged at a pawnbroker's, he went immediately and redeemed them—returned to his lodgings in Walcot-street—melted some lead in the bowl of a tobacco pipe—cast two bullets; and having charged both pistols, sallied out about ten o'clock,

&c.

to effect the hellish purpose he had formed. Fearing his courage might fail him, he stopped at a public-house on the way, and drank (to which he was no ways accustomed) a pint of strong beer and two glasses of brandy. Thus fortified, and impelled by the miseries of contemned love, desperation, enthusiasm, and the baneful effects of the liquor, he entered into the apartment of Miss Bally, who was at work with her needle, surrounded by twenty children. He sat himself down in a chair, and asked her a few questions, which not being answered to his satisfaction, in less than three minutes, whilst her head was turned, he pulled out the pistol and immediately fired it—the ball entered her head about an inch above her left ear:—she dropt from her seat, and died instantaneously. The children ran out crying, "Murder!—the man has murdered Ma'am!" He hurried out with them, the discharged pistol in his hand, crying, "I surrender myself to justice—I demand the justice of the law, for I murdered her!" At the same time yielding up the pistol to one man, and giving the second to another, cautioning him that it was charged, he was secured; and a coroner's inquest being taken before W. Anderson, Esq. Mayor of the city, the jury brought in a verdict *Wilful Murder*, by the said William White; and he was consequently committed to Ilchester goal, to take his trial at the assizes.

Miss Bally was 19 years of age, pleasing in her manner, and with a beautiful placid countenance. It is remarkable that the murder was committed in the very room in which she first drew breath.

In the year 1800, Miss Ives, of Spalding, in Lincolnshire, spun 300 hanks from one pound of wool, which, if extended, would reach 95 miles.

CAROLUS.

TO

TO THE EDITOR OF KIRBY's WONDERFUL MUSEUM.

Nottingham, JULY 10, 1803.

" SIR,—Having been a purchaser and peruser of the *Wonderful and Scientific Museum*, I have also been desirous to become a contributor to so valuable a Work; and by inserting the following account of the late Mr. Charles Thompson, who is buried on Sherwood Forest, about a mile from Mansfield, in the county of Nottingham, on the left hand, and near the turnpike-road leading from Mansfield to Newark, in your next Magazine, will make me emulous of meriting your future approbation; and I flatter myself, will add one to the Remarkable Characters already published in it, and prove entertaining to your readers; the authenticity of which, you and they may fully depend upon, as the former part was related by himself, and I was present at his funeral, and have since frequently seen the spot where he lies interred.

Your constant Reader, D. B. L——Y."

LIFE *and* ADVENTURES *of* MR. THOMPSON, *late of* MANSFIELD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

MR. THOMPSON died a bachelor, in the year 1784, aged 70; was a native of Mansfield, his father a maltster in the same place, and died when his son was a minor:—After receiving a tolerable education, at the age of twenty-two he went to London, seeking employment, and was nearly six months before he could meet with a suitable situation; his finances being low, he applied to the late Mr. William Wright, of Mansfield, who generously relieved him. Mr. Thompson at length had the offer of being accepted in the house of Richard Chauncy and Co. merchants, provided he could give surety by bond to an unlimited sum, to make good in three months; on which he

he applied again to Mr. Wright, who entered into a bond upon the aforesaid conditions. He was fixed upon by the Russian merchants as a proper person to be sent as agent into Persia; after receiving a variety of dresses proper to appear in at different courts, a vessel was laden and sent for Persia, but was detained by the Empress of Russia at Petersburgh, having taken umbrage at his predecessor's conduct, who had taught the Persians the art of building a ship. The Empress, however, gave Mr. Thompson an audience; and he, explaining the matter to her satisfaction, was suffered to proceed. In his passage up the river Volga, he observed great numbers of tulips and auriculas growing spontaneously on its banks; the former of which were of a dullish colour, owing to the roots continuing from year to year in the earth. Mr. Thompson was in Persia at the time that Kouli Kan was assassinated; and on the very day on which he met his fate in the evening, Mr. Thompson applied to Kouli Kan for redress of grievances, none of his officers having paid for the clothing their men had received; but his attendants advised him not to take any notice of his complaints; upon which he turned to them, and said, "He is an Englishman, and shall have justice done: I would sooner take an Englishman's word than believe a native of any other country, though he confirmed it by an oath."—Mr. Thompson declared that he had seen several governors of provinces, appointed by Kouli Kan, strangled by the Usurper's order, that he might get into possession of their fortunes: every one dreaded being appointed governor, for he could meet with no mercy.

Mr. Thompson was at Lisbon during the time of the great [illegible] and lived in an elegant manner the year on[illegible] The inhabitants of them were so rich, that they left their houses, and fled to one of the Barbary states, where they found very little trouble. The violence of the shock fastened the doors of their houses, on which was a spring-lock, which prevented

prevented their entering several nights; on which they sat up in a place some miles distant from the city.—After staying there a few weeks, he set out for London. Supposing that all his property had been swallowed up; he again applied to Mr. Wright for relief, begging him to desire a stocking-weaver of Mansfield, who had received many favours from Mr. Thompson, to send him two pairs of stockings only, which he refused; upon which Mr. Wright purchased a dozen pairs, and sent them; together with a note of some value, to Mr. Thompson, for which Mr. Wright did not expect any return. Mr. Thompson again ventured to Lisbon, and found his house in ruins; but on digging, recovered an iron chest, containing the bulk of his property, the other part having been burnt.—A servant of Mr. Thompson's was liberated, after a confinement of three weeks in his arched cellar, during which time he had amused himself, like a sensible man, with tasting of the choicest wines. Mr. Thompson having amassed a fortune of seven thousand pounds, came to Mansfield, and was a visitor at his friend Mr. Wright's, two years, and afterwards lived in the house now inhabited by Mr. Brown, turner, Leeming-lane; where, by some accident, he fell betwixt his bed and a piece of furniture, and could not extricate himself; his servant hearing an uncommon noise, went to his assistance and relieved him: this circumstance led him to make a temporary will, in which he mentions every particular relating to his funeral, which will be found as follows:—He daily visited the spot on which he had fixed for his grave, and enquired of the clergy as to the propriety of being buried on the forest; and notwithstanding their discountenancing of it, he persisted, where we will leave him, in hopes of a joyful resurrection.

Mr. Thompson had not only the gift of continency, but withal was a very religious man, and was shocked, in passing,

ing through the church-yards, by observing human bones exposed, which might lead him, I imagine, to his fixing on the spot where he now lies. He honoured the remains of his parents, by erecting their present monument in Mansfield church-yard, enclosed by iron rails, and upon which is the following inscription :—

RICHARD THOMPSON,

AND

ELIZABETH, his WIFE.

The former died August 21, 1728, aged 60.
The latter died February 15, 1737, aged 66.

Notwithstanding his many good qualities, he must be pronounced ungrateful, in bequeathing a paltry sum to the heirs of his late worthy friend Mr. Wright, whose generosity laid the basis of his fortune.

The following directions relating to his funeral, are taken from his will:—

" I desire that Edmund Bulbie be employed as undertaker, that he make me a good strong plain coffin without any ornaments; that I be dressed in a flannel shirt better than two yards long, a flannel cap, a slip of flannel round my neck, and in that state to be put into my coffin, and then to have two yards of plaid flannel thrown over, no shroud snipt or cut. About the coffin after I am put in, I would have three iron hoops or plates, one towards the head, another about the middle, the third towards the feet, fastened to the coffin, in each of these plates to have an iron ring inserted at the upper part of the coffin for the ropes to run through, to let me down into the grave; that six or eight poor men be employed as bearers to put me into the hearse and take me out, and that they be allowed 5s. each; that George Allen and assistants be employed to make my grave, and if they can make it six yards deep,

to be handsomely paid for their trouble, but to make it as deep as they can. I would have my interment private as possible, no bell to toll, and the hearse to go down Bath-lane. I desire that George Allen may be employed to build me a good strong square wall, by way of enclosure, seven yards withinside. I desire that after my funeral as much earth be brought as will raise a mount, and that some trees may be planted thereon, and then finish a wall."

All which was punctually fulfilled, and the trees surrounding his grave are now grown to a great height.—Notwithstanding his wish to have his interment private as possible, the novelty attracted the attendance of about four thousand persons. Few travellers, who are curious, passing that way, omit visiting the place where he lies interred.

A BALL OF FIRE.

On the 4th July 1803, a ball of fire struck the White Bull public house, kept by John Hubbard, at East Norton. The chimney was thrown down by it, the roof in part torn off, the windows shattered to atoms, and the dairy, pantry, &c. converted into a heap of rubbish. It appeared like a luminous ball of considerable magnitude; and on coming in contact with the house, exploded with a great noise and a very oppressive sulphureous smell. Some fragments of this ball were found near the spot, and have been subjected to chemical analysis by a gentleman in that neighbourhood, who has found them to consist of nearly one half siliceous clay, 35 parts of oxidated iron, 12 of magnesia, and a small portion of nickel, with some sulphur. The surface of these stones is of a dark colour, and varnished as if in a state of fusion, and bearing numerous globules of a whitish metal, combining sulphur and nickel. From some indentures on the surface, it appears probable, that the ball was soft when it descended, and it was obviously in a state

state of fusion, as the grass, &c. is burnt up where the fragments fell. Its motion while in the air was very rapid, and apparently parallel to the horizon. This ball appears to agree in most respects with those which have fallen in Portugal, Alsace, Yorkshire, Sienna, Benares, Bohemia, France, &c.; and which have for some time engaged the attention of philosophers in all countries.

A STRIKING INSTANCE OF RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE.

About the beginning of this July 1803, it was reported in the public newspapers, that two men out of a number impressed in St. James's Park, and confined in St. Martin's watch-house, were suffocated. The fact was, that only one of these unfortunate persons was actually stifled: the other being taken out in time and led away. But in the year 1741, it is well known, that watch-house being then kept by one Bird, he was so cruel and inconsiderate, in forcing a great number of people, mostly women, into the same small apartment, which appears on the outside like a cellar, that an indictment was brought against him for the murder of one woman, that happened to have perished through his neglect; and as no murder during the reign of George II. though ever so notorious, in rank, were suffered to evade the hands of justice, this Bird, though cast for death for the offence, was able to obtain no more, through the intercession of his friends, than to get the sentence of death changed into that of transportation for life. The vengeance of heaven, however, followed this cruel man, in a manner so singular, that the neglect and punishment which he had inflicted upon others, seemed to be the only means chosen as a retribution upon himself, as too many of the convicts being accidentally put into the hold of the ship that was carrying them to America, he was the only person among them, in that was suffocated.

THE

THE LIFE OF MR. JOHN JOSEPH MERLIN.

Supposed to be the greatest Mechanical Genius that ever appeared in this Country.

" Come Patron of Merit, bright Goddess of Fame!
" Aloud to the World MERLIN's Talents proclaim;
" To the Favourite of Genius you surely should raise,
" A Tribute of lasting and glorious Praise."

JOHN JOSEPH MERLIN was born September 17, 1735, at St. Peter's, in the city of Huys, between Namur and Liege, five leagues from Maestricht. After residing six years at Paris, he was recommended from the Royal Academy there, to come over to England with the Spanish Ambassador Extraordinary, Count de Fuentes, who resided in Soho-square. He arrived in England, May the 24th, 1760. Soon after this he became the first or principal mechanic employed at Cox's Museum in Spring Gardens, which he left in 1773. He also professed himself a maker of engines, mathematical instruments, and a watch and clock-maker in general. After leaving Cox, he lived in Little Queen Ann-street, Mary-le-bone, and there obtained a patent for his Rotisseur, or roasting-screen; and also a second patent for another invention, combining the harpsichord and piano-forte in one, which answered every expectation.—Respecting this invention, we have heard that the opposition that he met with from a number of teachers of music, who refused to recommend his instruments, without a bribe, induced him to decline making any more.

After some years he removed from Queen Ann-street to his late residence, No. 11, Princes street, Hanover-square, when he gave up all thoughts of obtaining patents, but trusted entirely to his own superior ingenuity, and to his exertions in the line of mechanism.

Respecting his abilities in general, we are constrained to confess, that nothing but ocular demonstration can possibly convey any thing like a tolerable idea of his Museum, all



JOHN JOSEPH MERLIN,

his own work.—Among many, we shall only enumerate a few instances, to detail in our Miscellany, the whole being too numerous; and first, his gouty-chair is certainly a master-piece. It is easily and readily convertible into a sopha, an easy-chair, &c. &c.; and by the addition of two small iron handles easily put upon the elbow, the patient can run the vehicle any where at pleasure.

He had also a curious dial or regulator, which never required winding up, as that is done only by the door opening.—He had likewise a great number of large and small pieces of mechanism, resembling various things, and a number of many curious musical pieces.—But what surpasses every thing that can be imagined, is two particular figures, yet unfinished, representing women about 15 inches high, one in the attitude of dancing, and the other walking.—They are made in brass, and clock-work, so as to perform almost every motion and inclination of the human body; viz. of the head, the breasts, the neck, the arms, the fingers, the legs, &c. even to the motion of the eyelids, and the lifting up of the hands and fingers to the face. The dancing figure is still more astonishing than the walking figure.—Besides these, he is possessed of the model of himself, with his carriage, in clock-work, which are made of brass, to go and perform every natural motion resembling life peculiar to the man or the horse, being made to run round about an artificial garden.—He has also two different models of what he intended to erect at Paddington, which he gave it the name of *Merlin's Cave*.—These must have been curious in the extreme, had he lived to have executed them.—In what he calls his unrivalled mechanical chariot, he used to be seen, for many years past, very frequently riding about Hyde Park and various parts of the town, particularly on Sundays. In the front of this carriage, a sporting [illegible] was placed.—By a mechanical contrivance [illegible] left wheel to this dial, which

which he called way-side, he was informed by the hand and figures thereupon, how far he had travelled. His general course, unless on particular business, was about eight miles in and out. In this carriage he never had the trouble to open the doors or windows, and even the horse was whipped, if necessary, by his pulling a string to which a whip was attached by a spring. From this curious carriage and his portrait, we have presented our readers with an exact engraving. To have this carriage painted with various emblematical figures of Merlin, the ancient British Magician, it cost Mr. Merlin last summer the sum of eighty guineas.

He had his favourite horse thirty years, and to prevent any ill usage of this animal after his death, he ordered him to be shot, which was done accordingly. He was not only an extraordinary genius, but amazingly eccentric in his private pursuits. He had made himself a wheel resembling that of Fortune; and as the Goddess Fortune used to attend at almost all the masquerades, rolling along in the car, which he moved by the motion of his feet, and at the same time distributing his favours, particularly to the ladies. He was not less fond of representing the character of Cupid at those places of public amusement: and as he at the same time imitated the character of Vulcan, in forging his own darts, for which he had a fire and a forge, and these he threw very successfully aimed against the fair sex.

He was also in the habit of appearing as a bar-maid in those public places, where he had a bar of his own fitting up, which the ingenious could discover, &c. &c.—And in fine, was so much esteemed for his inexhaustible ingenuity in these diversions, that he was frequently employed by the Prince of Wales, the Margrave of Anspach, the late Marquis of Rockingham, and several of the English nobility.

In

In his easy mechanical chair, he used to attend at various masquerades as a quack doctor. Underneath this chair, as it was always charged with an electrical apparatus, many have repented of their temerity in coming to consult him as patients, through the frequent electrical shocks they received, and of which not having the least conception, they found themselves completely caught in his trap.

This truly eccentric man and original genius, died but in the beginning of May last, at the age of 68. The world is thus not only deprived of the abilities of one of the most extraordinary characters, but may also very soon lose the gratification of contemplating the various instances of this great mechanic's ingenuity, unless some patron of the arts should purchase the whole, this ample collection must go to the hammer. For ingenuity and workmanship, we can take upon ourselves to affirm, that a parallel collection is not to be found in the United Kingdoms. Having died a single man, he has left his property to two brothers and a sister, who are abroad.—His fortune was but small, owing to his great expenditure during his life, making experiments in mechanism. Our limits not being sufficient to admit a description of every article which he has represented in machinery, &c.; we have only to notice, that they are enumerated in a catalogue, which is distributed at his Museum near Hanover-square. We conclude the life of this extraordinary genius, with a poetical sketch of the contents of his most scientific collection.

At Merlin's you meet with delight,
His Clock of magnetical pow'r,
Keeps motion by day and by night,
By one hand tells the minute & hour.
His Hydraulic Vase shews his skill,
How water is raised at his pleasure;
His grand Band of Music his will,
Excels all you've made without measure.

The Musical Cabinet shews,
His wonderful skill how to please;
Four people it always allows,
To sit down and play at their ease.
His Morpheus Chair for the gout,
Gives ease to the sore and infirm.
His Air-Gun[illegible] balls fly about,
When shot by the[illegible]

His Library Table likewise,
To the student much pleasure affords;
And gives ease to the aged and wise,
When reading or writing of words.
His Mechanical Garden delights
Every one who's so happy to view;
Tho' it's shown them on several nights,
It pleases as much as when new.
The Tea Table next comes in sight,
With such wonderful pow'r to please,
That ladies by day or by night,
May sit down and fill at their ease.
The Balance Sanatorius they call,
Will shew you your weight in a trice;
Will measure your height great or small,
And to measurement comes very nice.
The Circus of Cupid must please,
Must elate every young female heart;
But he sometimes deprives them of ease,
When deep in their hearts shoots his dart.
The Fisherman now in his boat;
The Goddess of Fortune appears;
He dress'd in his nautic coat,
She fix'd on the circle of years.
The Goddess of Love now appears,
In her favourite Car drawn by doves;
Her hair flowing loose, she appears
As May, the kind mother of loves.
The Swan proudly swims on the waves:
The Flying Fish wants in the air;
The Frigate the elements braves,
[illegible]
The Temple of Flora [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
You may speak from each end of the room,
Nor be heard by the company by;
And converse with each friend that should come,
Nor any one give you the lie.
There's a Juggler so wise as to know
Which hand shall contain the round ball,
And he frequently lets you down low,
When you find you have made a wrong call.
There's the Swings where you'll find exercise,
At once will restore you to health;
And if you're both prudent and wise,
No longer you'll value your wealth
If you wish to amuse at the Game,
And Whist is your favourite play,
The cards, tho' you're blind, you may name,
If you'll follow the rules and obey.
You may gamble at even and odd,
And never be sure you shall win;
You may run o'er the ground you had trod,
And yet meet with a double take-in.
There's a Harpsichord next you will view,
An Organ it keeps; by the hand!
(You'll certainly think it quite new,)
You can play seven tunes in a band.
There's another twelve tunes you will find,
By clock-work continually plays;
And amuse both the body and mind,
And exhilarate the poetic lays.
There's the Turk, who eats all he can get,
Of stones when put into his mouth,
[illegible] you'll [illegible] regret,
Tho' he's sav'd from the north to the south.

The

The crown'd Witch Harp you will find
On one side, laid to play on with pleasure;
Without boasting of knowledge of mind,
You'll always be sure of true measure.
Five instruments always in tune,
It's a sight you can't always survey;
Composed in one instrument's une,
All of which one Musician can play.
The Fire-screen next may be seen,
Where reading and writing you'll do;
The Bedstead and Couch too is e'en,
A snug place of rest, when your due.
The Pump with the Hygean aid,
Draws foul air from the house or the ship;
Keeps your rooms always free, not afraid
Are you ever on dangers to slip.
There's four Horses! you'll ride in the air!
And above all the company placed,
Whoever takes most right of fair,
With the title of Hero'll be graced.
Then let every one quickly repair,
To the Temple of comfort and joy;
Merlin's always both open and fair,
Other treats are no more to be had.

AN ECCENTRIC LIFE AND BURIAL.

Mr. John Oliver, the eccentric miller, of Highdown-hill in Sussex, born in 1710, died lately at the age of 83 years. His remains were interred near his mill, in a tomb he had caused to be erected there for that purpose near thirty years ago, the ground having been previously consecrated. His coffin, which he had for many years kept under his bed, was painted white; and the body was borne by eight men clothed in the same colour. A girl about twelve years old read the burial service, and afterwards on the tomb, delivered a sermon on the occasion, from Micah, chap. vii. ver. 8—9, before at least two thousand auditors, whom curiosity had led to this extraordinary funeral. The great concourse of people present occasioned some rioting, which but ill accorded with the solemn ceremony. The deceased, notwithstanding his eccentricity, was a man of good moral character, and a liberal benefactor to the poor in his neighbourhood. His tomb is covered with passages from Scripture, and hieroglyphical figures.

FOR KIRBY'S WONDERFUL MUSEUM.

VENTRILOQUISM.

THE Writer of this Note, was on the 3d of Jan. 1789, in a company, where a Ventriloquist, an Irishman, of the name of Burns, made his appearance, for the purpose of displaying his talent.—He had with him a little figure dressed up as his son, from the mouth of which figure he made his voice apparently to issue both in speaking and singing—he transferred his voice from one part of the room and house to another—he made a complete and perfect imitation of the bagpipe going through a whole tune, the sound all the time issuing as it were from under his arm: he sung a song, and during the time of his singing, held a pint of beer to his mouth drinking; he performed many other extraordinary things, and all of them with his mouth closed; insomuch that the relator held the flame of a lighted candle close to his mouth, without being able to perceive the smallest degree of breath: he did not during the whole of his performance, appear himself to speak, or open his mouth, and had no distortion of countenance, or change of any feature.

July 7, 1803. VERITAS.

In addition to the above instance of this surprising faculty, we have selected the following:—One Gille, says the abbe Chapelle, who has written on the subject, desired me once to enter into his back shop, where, as we were sitting by a corner of the fire-side, and were face to face to each other, he amused me for the space of half an hour, by telling me many droll stories of his skill in ventriloquism. In a moment of silence on his part, and of absence on mine, I heard myself called by name in a very distinct tone of voice, which seemed to be so distant, and at the same time so very strange, that I was quite alarmed at it.

A.

As I was now aware of the cause, I believe, said I to him, that you mean to speak to me as a ventriloquist. He returned for answer only a smile; but while I was pointing out to him the supposed direction of the voice, which to me seemed to come through the floor from the top of the opposite house, I again heard very distinctly the same voice which said, it is not on that side, and seemed now to proceed from the corner of the chamber where we were sitting, and to rise from the ground. I could not get the better of my astonishment; the voice seemed to be absolutely annihilated in the mouth of the ventriloquist; it appeared as if shifting its quarters at his pleasure, and coming and going as it had a mind. But if the foregoing scene was singular, the following was infinitely more curious.

This ventriloquist happened to be walking with an old military man, who always assumed a stately air as he went along.—His discourse was ever about sieges and battles, and he himself was sure to be the hero of the campaign.

To repress this inordinate vanity, Gille took it into his head to give him a dose in his own way; since nothing is more amusing than a vain man set in action. Being arrived in a bye-place, near the borders of a forest, our soldier imagined that he heard some one from the top of a tree cry out, "It is not every one that wears a sword knows how to make use of it." "Who is that impudent fellow?" (asked the son of Mars.) "Probably, (rejoined the other) it is some shepherd a bird-nesting."—"Come hither, (then exclaimed the voice, which now seemed to descend along the tree,) come hither, if you be not afraid!" "As for that, (returned the soldier, with a most martial air, and setting himself in a posture of attack,) I shall soon make you easy!" "What are you about then?" cried Gille, taking him by the arm,) Do not you know that you will be made game of?" "A bullying air is not always the sign of true courage," (interrupted

terrupted the voice; which still appeared to be sliding along the tree as before.) "This is no shepherd," (observed Gille.) "But still I will chastise him for his impertinence," (cried out the other.) "Witness Hector flying before Achilles!" (cried out the voice immediately after;) upon which the exasperated soldier, drawing his sword, plunged it with all his might into a bush that grew at the foot of the tree. A rabbit instantly started from it, and ran off with all its might. "Behold Hector, (said Gille) while you yourself are Achilles."

This stroke of pleasantry disarmed the warrior, while it confounded him. He demanded of his companion what was meant by it, and the other then explained to him that he had two voices, which enabled him to act the part of two distinct persons; the one was that which he was then using, and the other which was heard, as if at a considerable distance.

But what, upon the whole, are the causes of this phenomenon? With these, the abbe Chapelle seems to have been well acquainted, when he attributes them to a particular play of the muscles of the pharynx and the throat, which every man who is organised like the rest of his species, may acquire by constant and persevering exercise, and by an obstinate determination to bend the organs that way.—This faculty, however, was not the labour of a wish to Gille, who had acquired it at Martinique, by closely imitating a ventriloquist with whom he had contracted a friendship.

A straitening or restriction of the muscles of the pharynx, that choak or enfeeble the voice, by which means the sound becomes modified, and seems to reach us from afar, is the only cause by which this phenomenon is produced.

One thing, however, must be observed, which, doubtlessly, concurs to increase the illusion; and it is this, that in the manner in which the ventriloquist speaks, the air being particularly struck in the interior of the throat, at the

time of the expiration, and not externally, as is the case in the usual method of speech: this circumstance may concur to give a certain character to the voice, as if it came from afar.

What, in fine, seems to confirm the opinion, that with the ancients, as well as with us, the whole art of the ventriloquist consisted in this voluntary construction of the throat is, that Hippocrates, in speaking of a particular disorder in that part, says, that it caused those who were afflicted with it, to speak as if they had been engastrymithized.—But if this faculty may be acquired by any particular indisposition of the organ, art, when well directed, may produce the same effect.

The ignorance of those who have gone before us, with respect to engastrymism, has not a little contributed to impose upon numbers of persons, not to say that it has been the origin of a thousand tricks and impositions. Hence we ought not to be surprised at hearing a number of adventures, each one more singular than the preceding.

AN IMPROVEMENT IN NAVIGATION.

The following account of the origin and progress of the use of buoys, as marks for vessels, &c. will no doubt amuse and inform most of our readers. The first account of buoys being placed as guides to navigators on the coasts of this island, is in 1538, when they were laid down at the mouth of the Thames, to point out the situation of the flats. Since that time, notwithstanding the accidents which happen in consequence of their removal by storms or other accidents, owing in a great measure to the clumsy construction of them, no means have been taken to guard against the continuance of this evil; nor has any improvement taken place in the system of buoyage, though much has been done in every other branch of navigation.

A plan

A plan proposed by a correspondent of the *Naval Chronicle*, seems so well calculated to remedy some of these defects, that we feel it our duty to give every publicity to it in our power. Two modes are pointed out by this gentleman, both of which we shall insert, though the second appears to us to be the best. His first scheme is to have a three-inch plank, eighteen inches wide at bottom, and nine inches wide at top, let through the center of a piece of timber one foot square and six feet long, and made fast to it; about six or seven feet of the plank is to be below the timber, and the whole must be moored with a chain of such a length as that the timber may be four feet below the low-water line. The use of this timber is to keep the plank always in a perpendicular position. The other consists in mooring a spar of a convenient diameter in a similar manner, except that instead of a *fixed* piece of timber, he proposes that, in this case, the timber shall be conical, or rather in the shape of a weaver's shuttle, tapering in its thickness, and bored through like a water-pipe; the bore to be large enough for the float to pass freely up and down the spar as the tide rises or falls. A bolt may be put across the top of the spar to prevent the possibility of the float slipping off. The benefits likely to arise from the adoption of either of these buoys seem to be; 1st, That in consequence of offering less resistance to the winds and waves, a buoy on this construction will be less liable to be displaced by stormy weather; and 2d, That as its length will be known, that part of its perpendicular height which is seen above the water, will shew the depth upon the bank. By this means vessels may be always apprised when they can pass in safety. This plan appears to be simple and practicable, and at the same time fraught with such advantages as to render it, at least, worthy of trial.

The

The HISTORY *of* REMARKABLE EARTHQUAKES *in England, and elsewhere.*

THE account of the dreadful Earthquake at Lisbon having been given in the former Numbers of this MUSEUM, as we were led to suppose, that a history of those that have happened in this country might be still more interesting, the reader may look upon the following details as copious as the work will allow; and without going too far into any elaborate disquisition as to the recondite causes of this calamity, the chronological order in which they are stated, will, no doubt, considerably refresh the memory.—And though England has had several awful visitations of this kind, it will be observed, that almost all of them have occurred since the year 1580. The shocks of any of them for 700 years past, have in general been neither great nor extensive, and have also been mostly confined within the compass of a few miles. This may be caused partly from the scarcity and distance of the subterraneous caverns, which are supposed to abound in hot countries; but where these are more numerous, the mineral fire runs through little openings from one great cavity to another, and as many mines may be sprung with one continued train of powder, so this forces its way to an incredible distance.—Thus, in 1586, an earthquake in Peru, ran from south to north 900 miles; and in 1601 another extended from Asia to the sea which washes the French coast, at the same time shaking Hungary, Germany, Italy, and France. In this case, as Mr. Boyle observes, it is not to be doubted, but that the shock of the explosion may extend much farther than the danger.

On Wednesday April 6, 1580, about six in the evening, an earthquake was felt all over England. The great clock in the palace of Westminster struck of itself against the hammer, as did several clocks and bells in the city and

country, part of the Temple-church fell down, some stones were thrown from St. Paul's and at Christ-church, during divine service, a boy and girl were killed by a stone falling from the top of the church, and many were hurt by the fall of chimnies. At the same time a piece of the cliff at Dover, and part of the castle wall were thrown down, as also a part of Saltwood-Castle in Kent. In the east part of Kent there were three shocks, at six, at nine, and at eleven at night.

January 13, 1583.—In the parish of Armitage, a piece of ground, containing three acres, was torn up by an earthquake, removed from its original station, and thrown over another close to the distance of forty perches; the hedges with which it was surrounded, enclosed it still, and the trees stood upright. Mr. Stowe says, that it stopped up a highway leading to the market town of Cerne; and that the place from whence this field was torn, resembled a great pit.

January 19, 1665--6.—Towards evening a small earthquake was felt near Oxford; it was perceived at Belchington, and also at Bostol, Horton, Stanton, St. John's, and Whately. It was not felt at all those places at the same time, but moved successively from Belchington to Whately. It was very considerable at a place called Brill, where a gentleman's house shook very much, so that the stones in the parlour evidently moved to and fro; but this is not very wonderful, since the hill on which it stood is stored with mineral substances.

In the year 1677, at about eleven at night in Christmas time, an earthquake was felt at Wittenhall, near Wolverhampton in Staffordshire; it consisted of only one shock, and by the noise which attended it, was thought to move from south to north.

November 4, 1678.—At about eleven at night there happened another earthquake at Breewood, in the same county;

county; it began with a noise like a flat rumbling, distant thunder, yet so loud as to awaken people in their beds.—The earth moved very sensibly three several times, each motion being at about half an hour's distance from the other. The night following was attended with another of a less kind, yet not without noise.

January 4, 1680.—About seven in the morning an earthquake was felt at Chedsey, in Somersetshire, which extended some miles round. It shook the houses pretty much, and was attended with a noise resembling a sudden gust of wind; or, as others imagined, the shock and noise was not unlike that of some great thing thrown upon the ground. It was of very short continuance. The air was very calm, it having been a frosty night, and the snow which fell the day before lying upon the ground.

September 17, 1683.—There was one at Oxford. It was preceded by a remarkable calmness in the air; it shook the earth with a tremulous and vibratory motion extremely quick; the pulses were a little discontinued, and yet they came so thick that there was no reckoning them, though the whole earthquake continued here scarce more than six seconds of time. As tremulous and vibratory motions are proper to produce sounds, so this earthquake was accompanied with a hollow murmuring, like a distant thunder; which sound kept time so exactly with the motion, and and was so conformable to it in all respects, that it plainly appeared there was the same reason for both.

September 8, 1691.—At two in the afternoon, an earthquake was felt at Deal, Canterbury, Sandwich, and Portsmouth. The houses were shaken, the pewter and brass tottered on the shelves, and several chimneys were thrown down; this earthquake was said to continue near six minutes.

December 28, 1703.—An earthquake was felt at Hull, about three or four minutes after five in the evening; it

made the windows rattle, shook the houses, and threw down part of a chimney; the shock came and went very suddenly, and was attended with a noise like wind, though there was then a perfect calm. It was felt in much the same manner at Beverly and other places, and particularly at South Dalton; but was more violent near Lincoln.—It was felt pretty much at Selby and Navenby, where it was attended with a sudden noise, which resembled the rumbling of two or three coaches driven furiously; it shook the chairs on which people sat; and even the very stones were seen to move. It extended into Nottinghamshire, where there were three shocks, each of which resembled the rocking of a cradle.—A little before there was a violent storm.

In 1727, there was another in England, which was felt at Reading and several parts adjacent; and in 1732 one at Strontian in Argyleshire, which extended all along the west coast of Great Britain; but to no great breadth.

October 10, 1731.—At about four in the morning an earthquake of the vibratory kind, was felt at Aynho in Northamptonshire; it alarmed all the neighbouring villages, it proceeded from east to west, the concussion lasting about a minute; and in the morning the sky looked of a sand colour. It had been over about a minute, when some of the inhabitants observed a great flash of lightning.

October 25, 1734.—Between three and four in the morning, an earthquake was felt at Havant in Sussex; the shock was very considerable, so that a church bell was heard to sound. The beds shook with a quick tremulous motion, which continued about two or three seconds, and then ceased; but after a short intermission, was again repeated for the same length of time.—The air was perfectly calm, though it rained, and the wind rose presently after.

(To be continued.)

An in-

A singular NARRATION *of a* GRAND MASQUE *and* ANTI-MASQUE, *exhibited by the Law Societies, before Charles I. and his Queen.*

[Extracted from WHITELOCKE'S Memorials.]

IN 1633, in the Middle Temple, were chosen of this committee, Mr. Hyde and Whitelocke; Inner Temple, Sir Edward Herbert and Mr. Selden; Lincoln's Inn, Mr. Attorney Noy and Mr. Gerling; and for Gray's Inn, Sir John Finch and Mr. ——, to conduct a Royal Masque.—It was the finest thing ever seen in England.—There was also at the same time an Antimasque.

On Candlemas day, in the afternoon, the masquers, horsemen, musicians, dancers, and all that were actors in this business, met at Ely House in Holborn; in this order down Chancery-lane to Whitehall.

The first that marched were twenty footmen in scarlet liveries with silver lace, each one having his sword by his side, a baton in his hand, and a torch lighted in the other hand; these were the marshal's men, who cleared the streets, made way, and were all about the marshal waiting his commands. After them, and sometimes in the midst of them, came the marshal, then Mr. Darrel, afterwards knighted by the King.—He was of Lincoln's Inn, an extraordinary handsome proper gentleman; he was mounted upon one of the King's best horses, and richest saddles, and his own habit was exceeding rich and glorious, his horsemanship very gallant, and besides his marshal's men, he had two lacquies, who carried torches by him, and a page in livery went by him, carrying his cloak.—After him followed a hundred gentlemen of the Inns of Court, twenty-five chosen out of each house, of the most proper and handsome young gentlemen of the Societies, every one of them was gallantly mounted on the best horses, and with the best furniture that the King's stable, and

and the stables of all the noblemen in town would afford; and they were forward on this occasion to lend them to the Inns of Court. Every one of these hundred gentlemen were in very rich clothes, scarce any thing but gold and silver lace to be seen of them, and each gentleman had a page and two lacquies waiting on him in his livery, by his horse's side: the lacquies carried torches, and the page his master's cloak. The richness of their apparel and furniture, glittering by the light of a multitude of torches attending on them, with the motion and stirring of their mettled horses, and the many and various gay liveries of their servants: but especially the personal beauty and gallantry of the handsome young gentlemen, made the most glorious and splendid show that ever was beheld in England. After the horsemen came the Antimasquers, and as the horsemen had their music, about a dozen of the best trumpeters proper for them, and in their liveries, sounding before them, so the first Antimasque being of cripples and beggars on horseback, had their music of keys and tongs, and the like, snapping, and yet playing in a concert before them.—These beggars were also mounted, but on the poorest, leanest jades that could be gotten out of the dirt carts or elsewhere; and the variety and change from such noble music and gallant horses as went before them, unto their proper music and pitiful horses, made both of them the more pleasing. The habits and properties of these cripples were most ingeniously fitted (as of all the rest) by the commissioner's direction. After the beggars Antimasque, came men on horseback, playing upon pipes, whistles, and instruments, sounding notes like those of birds of all sorts, and in excellent consort, and were followed by the antimasque of birds; this was an owl in an ivy bush, with many several sorts of other birds in a cluster about the owl, gazing as it were upon her: these were little boys put into covers of the shapes of those birds, rarely fitted, and sitting

on small horses, with footmen going by them, with torches in their hands, and there were some besides to look unto the children; and this was very pleasant to the beholders. After this Antimasque came other musicians on horseback, playing upon bagpipes, hornpipes, and such kind of Northern music, speaking the following Antimasque of projectors to be of the Scotch and Northern quarters, and these, as all the rest, had many footmen with torches waiting on them.—First, in this Antimasque, rode a fellow upon a little horse, with a great bit in his mouth, and upon the man's head was a bit, with head-stall and reins fastened, and signified a projector, who begged a patent, that none in the kingdom might ride their horses but with such bits as they should buy of him. Then came another fellow with a bunch of carrots upon his head, and a capon upon his fist, describing a projector, who begged a patent of monopoly, as the first inventor of the art to feed capons fat with carrots, and that none but himself might make use of that invention, and have the privilege for fourteen years, according to the statute. Several other projectors were in like manner personated in this Antimasque; it pleased the spectators the more, because by it an intimation was covertly given to the King of the unfitness and ridiculousness of these projects against the law; and the Attorney, Noy, who had most knowledge of them, had a great hand in this Antimasque of projectors. After this, and the rest of the Antimasques were passed, all which are not here remembered, there came six of the chief musicians on horseback upon foot-cloths, and in the habits of heathen priests, and footmen carrying of torches by them. After these musicians followed a large open chariot, drawn with six brave horses, with large plumes of feathers on their heads and buttocks; the coachman and postillion in rich antique liveries. In the chariot were about a dozen persons, in several habits of the Gods

Gods and Goddesses, and by them many footmen on all sides, bearing torches.

After this chariot followed six more of the musicians on horseback, with foot-cloths, habited, and attended with torches, as the former were: after them came another large open chariot, like the former, drawn with six gallant horses, with feathers, liveries, and torches, as the other had. These chariots were made purposely for this occasion; and in this latter chariot were about a dozen musicians in like habit (but all with some variety and distinction) as those in the first chariot. These going immediately next before the grand masquers chariots, played upon excellent and loud music all the way as they went. After this chariot came six more musicians on foot-cloth horses, habited and attended as the other. Then came the first chariot of the grand masquer, which was not so large as those that went before, but most curiously framed, and painted with exquisite art, and purposely for this service and occasion.—The form of it was after that of the Roman triumphant chariots, as near as could be gathered by some old prints and pictures extant of them. The seats in it were made of an oval form, in the back end of the chariot, so that there was no precedence in them; and the faces of all them that sat in it, might be seen together. The colours of the first chariot were silver and crimson, given by lot to Gray's Inn, as I remember. The chariot was all over painted richly with these colours, even the wheels of it most artificially laid on; and the carved work of it was as curious for that art, and it made a stately show. It was drawn by four horses all a-breast, and they were covered to their heels all over with cloth of tissue, of the colours of crimson and silver; huge plumes of red and white feathers on their heads and buttocks; the coachman's cap and feather, his long coat, and his very whip and cushion of

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the same stuff and colour. In this chariot sat the four grand masquers of Gray's Inn, their habits, doublets, trunk-hose and caps, of most rich cloth of tissue, and wrought as thick with silver spangles as they could be placed; large white silk stockings up to their trunk-hose, and rich sprigs in their caps, themselves proper and beautiful young gentlemen. On each side of the chariot were four footmen in liveries of the colour of the chariot, carrying huge flambeaux in their hands, with which the torches gave such a lustre to the paintings, spangles, and habits, that hardly any thing could be invented to appear more glorious. After this chariot came six more musicians, like the former; these were followed by the second chariot, as the lot fell for the Middle Temple: this differed not in any thing from the former, but in colours only, which were of this chariot, silver and blue; the chariot and horses were covered and decked with cloth of tissue, of blue and silver, as the former was with silver and crimson. In this second chariot were the four grand masquers of the Middle Temple, in the same habits as the other masquers were, and with the like attendance, torches and flambeaux, with the former. After these followed the third and fourth chariots, and six musicians between each chariot, habited as before; the chariots were all of the same make, and alike carved and painted, differing only in the colours. In the third chariot rode the grand masquers of the Inner Temple, and in the fourth chariot went those of Lincoln's Inn.

They continued in their sports till it was almost morning, and then the King and Queen retiring, the masquers and Inns of Court gentlemen were brought to a stately banquet.

The Queen, who was much delighted with these solemnities, was so taken with this show and masque, that she desired to see it acted over again; whereupon an intimation being given to the Lord Mayor of London, he invited

the King and Queen, and the Inns of Court Masquers to the city, and entertained them with all state and magnificence at Merchant Taylors' Hall. This also gave great contentment to their Majesties, and no less to the Citizens, especially to those of the younger sort, and of the female sex; and it was to the great honour and no less charge of the Lord Mayor, Freeman.

The King and Queen, and all their noble train, being come in (the banqueting-house), the masque began, and was incomparably performed in the dancing, speeches, music and scenes; the dances, figures, properties, the voices, instruments, songs, airs, composures, the words and actions, were all of them exact, and none failed in their parts of them, and the scenes were most curious and costly.

The Queen did the honour to some of the masquers to dance with them. The persons employed in this masque were paid justly and liberally: the music cost £1000; a sum in 1803 equal to £3000—and the whole cost 20,000 guineas.

TO THE EDITOR OF KIRBY's WONDERFUL MUSEUM.

"SIR,—I send you for insertion, a short sketch of the remarkable life of Mr. GEORGE DE BENNEVILLE, not more remarkable than true, as it was attested by the Count de Marsay; and an account was published by him in French and German, soon after the remarkable scene happened: a further account was also published by the Rev. Elhanan Winchester, the celebrated lecturer on the Universal Restoration of Mankind.—From these undoubted authorities, and coming from the pen of those truly pious men, I hope you will think it worthy of a place in your MUSEUM. A."

GEORGE-STREET, *Hanover-Square*.

M. G. DE BENNEVILLE, was born in London, July the 28th, 1703; his father was a French refugee, persecuted for

for his religion: he retired into England with his family and connections, upon the invitation of his Majesty King William III.—His mother died as soon as he was born, she imagined she should die at that time; and therefore was induced, while pregnant, frequently to pray for her child; and it appears the Lord heard her prayers, and granted her requests. After the death of his mother, Queen Anne provided him a nurse, and took on herself the care of his infancy.—At the age of twelve years he was sent to sea in a vessel of war bound to Algiers; at which time he was a very wild youth, but as extraordinary as it may appear, was convicted of his sinful ways, by the conduct of two Moors at Algiers.—He soon after returned to England, and became a very zealous Christian preacher; and notwithstanding the persecutions that was then carrying on in France against the Protestants, he was determined to preach the Gospel there.—The first sermon he preached was at Calais, and as soon as he was done, he was taken into custody; and as the magistrates were examining him, there came in an old man with a white beard, all the justices saluted him, and he said to them, have nothing to do with this man, for I have suffered much this night on his account, and immediately retired.—As this was his first crime, he was sentenced to eight days imprisonment, and was afterwards conducted out of the bounds of the city, with this caution, that his life would be in danger for the second offence.—He was about seventeen years of age when he first began to preach in France, and he spent two years in preaching in Upper and Lower Normandy; at last he, and the Rev. Mr. Durant, his companion, were surrounded by soldiers, as he was preaching near Dieppe, and taken prisoner, with a number of his audience.—After a month's imprisonment, those two were condemned to die, Mr. Durant to be hung, and Mr. De Benneville to be beheaded. They were conducted together to the place of execution;

Mr. Durant was hanged, he died joyfully, singing the 116th Psalm: Mr. De Benneville was then conducted on the scaffold, and his eyes ordered to be bound; but upon his earnest request, that was omitted: he then fell on his knees in prayer, and the executioner then bound his hands.—While he was thus employed, a courier arrived from the King (Louis XV.), with a reprieve for the criminal: he was then reconducted into prison, where he remained some time, till he was at last set at liberty, through the earnest intercession of Queen Anne.—He then retired into Germany, and there became acquainted with the Count de Marsay, a zealous Protestant: their acquaintance with each other happened by means of a vision. After eighteen years residence in Germany and Holland, he became sickly of a consumptive disorder, and retired to the city of Mons, in Hainault; while he lay in this weakness, he was favoured with several visions.—The Brethren in Germany, also had a vision of his death, and sent the Count de Marsay to visit him: when he arrived, he found him in the agonies of death, and in a short time, to all appearance, he died.—His body was washed according to the custom of the country, and was then put in a coffin, and after having laid in that state forty-one hours, he began to survive, to the astonishment of all present.—What was very remarkable, he had while in that state a vision of Heaven and Hell, and the restoration of fallen souls.—A full account of which, he himself related to the Rev. E. Winchester, and which account was published in the year 1791.—Beginning then to preach the Universal Gospel, he was presently put into prison, but soon set at liberty; he then took his departure for America, where he was living in July 1757.

The Rev. E. Winchester relates in his account, that he had an intimate acquaintance with him, from March 1782 to July 1747, and was glad that he was ever acquainted with him: for such a humble, pious, holy man, he had scarce

scarce ever seen.—And it was his opinion, as it was of several others, that he had been permitted to depart from the body for a time, that he might be satisfied both of the certainty of the Universal Doctrine, and of the manner of its being carried on in the invisible state.

ACCOUNT *of the* NEAPOLITAN QUACK DOCTRESS, TOFANA; *to which is annexed, the History of the Court called the* BURNING CHAMBER.

UNDER the administration of Cardinal Fleury's, during the reign of Louis XV., an Italian appeared here, assisted the Duke of the Marchioness of Brinvilliers, who had been sent to the Bastile upon the murder and brother of the Duke, [illegible] Jesuit Monk became the topic of the day, and a superstitious opinion was soon generated among the multitude, that Exorcists and philosophers can compose venoms, which operate, not at the season of administration, but at definite remote periods: that they can draw drafts upon death payable at one, two or three usances, or even at one, two or three years after acceptance of the order; and that these drafts are unfailingly discharged at their elapse, without a protest or a day of grace. Not only Quintilian and Theophrastus were ransacked for corroborations of this mischievous credulity; but the annals, or rather the libels, of the modern Italians, were pressed into the service of these calumniators of human nature.—To Alexander VI. and Cæsar Borgia, more than the possible was imputed, in order to come at a fund of baleful anecdotes. Catastrophes of tragedies translated into prose, were made to pass for history: entomology, mineralogy, botany, were employed only to catalogue their banes.

The name of the Sicilian quack-doctress, Tofana, was peculiarly efficient in exciting public attention. She was said to have resided first at Palermo, afterwards at Naples, and

and to be still living in impenetrable privacy at some forsaken hermitage. She was stated, for a time to have sold these drops, which from her acquired the name *Aqua Tofania*, *Acqua della Tofana*, and *Acquetta di Napoli*; and, at length, with a truly disinterested love of crime, to have charitably distributed the preparation among such wives as wished to have other husbands. From four to six drops of this water of Tofana's, it was asserted, were sufficient to destroy a man; and the dose could be so proportioned as to operate in any limited time. Watched by the state, but never detected in mal-practices, she had wandered from one ecclesiastical asylum to another, and thence distributed, under the superscription, *Manna of Saint Nicolas of Bari*, her little bottles, ornamented with the picture of the Saint. Dozens, grosses of these vials of wrath were pretended to have been sent to Paris. The regular physicians willingly compared the pious, but, perhaps, dram vending Tofana, with Hieronyma Spara, who had been hanged at Rome in 1659, for selling venomous philtres to young married women. A mortality of husbands was inferred from the purchase of cordials by their wives, and a well-meant "My dear, it will do you good!" was misconstrued as an assignation in the church-yard.

The jealousies of domestic life once inflamed, women thought their innocence, and men their security concerned, in inveighing with bitterness indiscriminate against the buyers of this Daffy's elixir. Every sudden, every lingering, every conspicuous, every critical disease was ascribed to the *Aqua Tofana*. The chief distributors were soon rumoured to be the Italian apothecary Exili, who administered for secret disorders; one Lavoisin, an accommodating midwife; one Glaser, a German, who printed chemical pamphlets, and pretended to raise ghosts; and one Lavigoureux, a she fortune-teller, who professed to discover stolen goods. Le Sage, a priest and astrologer, was employed

employed to detect, or hired to betray, the combination.—Visits, sometimes social, sometimes solitary, but always mysterious, from an apprehension of sneer, were found to have been made by women of rank, and men of intrigue, to these botchers of flaws. Some alledged the pretext of having a nativity cast, some had ventured into the crypts of sorcery, where were evoked with magic lanterns a phantasmagoria of the conspicuous dead. Disease and vice had convened their thousands—curiosity her ten thousands: it was easy to find out or to decoy, among audiences so mixed, the persons most obnoxious to the public, and the persons most obnoxious to the Minister. The *Chambre Ardente* well knew that the art of oppressing was to sacrifice them conjointly; and its proceedings were conducted accordingly.

It was evulgated that the Archbishop had been informed, from different parishes, that the crime of poisoning was frequently confessed, and that traces of it were remarked both in high and low families. Tellier and his brother Jesuits corroborated the alarm, by hair-bristling instances of enormity and villainy, which wanted, indeed, the definition of time, place, and person; but of these, the solemn oaths of the confessional, were supposed to prohibit the revelation. The public mind became the dupe of an honourable indignation, and out of horror to cruelty, called aloud for victims. Arrests were now begun. In the possession of the midwife, Lavoisin, was found or placed a list of those who had dealings with her. All these, above 40 persons, were dragged before the tribunal of the *Burning Chamber*, which, without following the usual course of justice, detected secret crimes by means of spies, whose tattle, to escape the reproach of frivolity, must always be exaggerated. The trials were private, and in every thing the example of the Inquisition was imitated. Acquittal, suspicion, conviction, were measured out, at the discretion

of

of this secret tribunal. In the midwife's list appeared the names, the distinguished names of the Countess of Soissons, of her sister, the Duchess of Bouillon, and of Marshal Luxembourg, all three personal enemies of the Minister.—At the perfidious hint of the King, the Countess voluntarily banished herself to Brussels. The Duchess fled to England, fearing (she said) to be interrogated, though unconscious of guilt.—The Marshal went calmly to the Bastile.—Exorcism, or rather the reverse, sale of himself to the devil, were forged around his signature, and other tricks employed to render him the object of vulgar suspicion and execration.—While in confinement, proposals were made to him through a priest, named D'Avaux, to agree on a marriage between his son and the daughter of Louvois, which the Marshal had already treated as a disparagement. Like a true nobleman, he repeated in prison all the haughtiness of his answer; and was kept five weeks in a narrow dungeon, until disease threatened his life, and awoke in Louvois the apprehension of passing himself for a drug-mixer. The culprits of ordinary rank were punished by the common hangman: those of an elevated class, after a confinement more or less rigid, were suffered to retire into obscurity, loaded with dark unanswerable suspicions.—Glaser was acquitted. Exili, after being in durance, was suffered, for unknown reasons, to escape. The two women, who were supposed chiefly to have vended the *Aqua Tofana*, Lavigoreux and Lavoisin, were both burnt alive.

Thus ended an alarm and an inquisition, which still furnish calumny with charges, and injustice with precedents.

An Account of a CAT *that* LIVED 27 MONTHS *without* DRINKING.

M. L'ABBE DE FONTENU, of the Royal Academy of [illegible] and Belles Lettres, at Paris, to whom the

Academy is indebted for several curious observations, was pleased to communicate to it in 1753 a very singular one. Having remarked how cats often habituate themselves, and oftener than one would wish, to dry warrens, where they certainly cannot find drink but very seldom, he fancied that these animals could do for a very long time without drinking. To see whether his notion was well grounded, he made an experiment on a very large and fat castrated cat he had at his disposal. He began by retrenching by little and little his drink, and at last debarred him of it entirely, yet fed him as usual with boiled meat. The cat had not drank for seven months, when this observation was communicated to the Academy, and has since passed nineteen without drinking. The animal was not less well in health, nor less fat; it only seemed that it eat less than before, probably because digestion was somewhat slower. The excrements were more firm and dry, which were not evacuated but every second day, though urine came forth six or seven times during the same time. The cat appeared to have an ardent desire to drink, and used his best endeavours to testify the same to M. Fontenu, especially when he saw a pot of water in his hand. He licked greedily the mug, the glass, iron, in short, every thing that could procure for his tongue the sensation of coolness; but it does not appear in the least, that his health suffered any alteration by so severe and so long a want of all sorts of drink. It may be inferred from hence, that cats may support thirst for a considerable time, without risk of madness, or other fatal accident. According to M. de Fontenu's remark, these animals are not perhaps the only that enjoy this faculty, and this observation might lead perhaps to more important objects.

MIRACULOUS PRESERVATION OF A CHILD.

[In consequence of an Explosion of Gunpowder.]

In the year 1649, and during the civil wars between Charles and his Parliament, the particulars of which are thus described by Stow :—

" Over against the wall of Barking church-yard, a sad and lamentable accident happened by gunpowder, in this manner :—One of the houses in this place was a ship-chandler's, who, upon the 4th of January 1649, about seven of the clock at night, being busy in his shop about barrelling up of gunpowder, it took fire ; and, in the twinkling of an eye, blew up not only that, but all the houses thereabouts, to the number towards the street, and in back alleys of fifty or sixty. The number of persons destroyed by this blow could never be known ; for the next house but one was the Rose Tavern, a house never empty at that time of night, but full of company ; and that day the parish dinner was in that house.—And in three or four days after digging, they continually found heads, arms, legs, and half bodies, miserably torn and scorched, besides many whole bodies, not so much as their clothes singed.—In the course of this accident, I will instance only two, one a dead, the other a living monument. In the digging, as I said before, they found the mistress of the house of the Rose Tavern, sitting in her bar, and one of the drawers standing by the bar's side, with a pot in his hand, only stifled with dust and smoke, their bodies being preserved whole, by means of great timbers falling across one another: this is one.—Another is this : the next morning there was found upon the upper leads of Barking Church, a young child lying in a cradle, as newly laid in bed ; neither the child nor cradle having the least sign of any fire or other hurt. It was never known whose child it was ;

so that one of the parish kept it for a memorial: for, in the year 1666, I saw the child grown to be then a proper maiden.

To preserve the memory of so notable an event, and that no doubt might remain of the fact, on a table which was hung up in the said Church of Barking Allhallows, in Tower Ward, it was thus written:—"This church was much defaced and ruined by a lamentable blow of 27 barrels of gunpowder that took fire, the 4th day of January 1649, in a ship-chandler's house, over against the south side of the church.—It was afterwards repaired and beautified by the parishioners."—And escaping the Great Fire of London, it has, between that and the present period, undergone several other repairs, being new pewed, &c.

A CURIOUS ACCOUNT *of the* RUINS *of* HERCULANEUM, *a subterraneous Town in the Neighbourhood of Naples; discovered in* 1741. *In a Letter from Mr.* GEORGE SHELVOCKE, *written from actual Survey, to the Earl of* LEICESTER.

THE writer begins by observing, that this ancient town probably stood on the spot where now stands that called *Torre di Greco*, as what is now seen of it, is not above half a mile from the Tower, and was probably a very large place. He then proceeds—"Before I give such a description of these remains as I am able, it may first be necessary to acquaint you, that for fear of accidents, the passages they have dug out, which have been quite at a venture, are seldom higher or broader than is necessary for a man of my size to pass along conveniently. This is the cause that you have but an imperfect view of things in general; and as these narrow passages are quite a labyrinth, there is no

guessing at whereabout you are after two or three turnings.

" At the further end of Portici, towards Torre di Greco, you descend by 50 stone steps, which convey you over the wall of a theatre, lined with white marble, which, if the hearth and rubbish were cleared out of it, would, I believe, be found to be very entire. By what is seen of it, I don't imagine it to have been much bigger than one of our ordinary theatres in London.—And that it was a theatre and not an amphitheatre, appears by a part of the scene, which is to be plainly distinguished.—It is, I think, of stucco, and adorned with compartments of grotesque work, of which and grotesque paintings, there is a great deal, scattered up and down in the several parts of the town.

" When you have left the theatre, you enter into the narrow passages, where on one hand of you, (for you seldom or never see any particular object to be distinguished on each hand at once, because of the narrowness of the passages,) you have walls lined and crusted over, sometimes with marble, sometimes with stucco, and sometimes you have walls of bare brick ; but almost throughout, you see above and about you, pillars of marble or stucco crushed or broken, or lying in all sorts of directions. Sometimes you have plainly the outsides of walls of buildings that have apparently fallen inwards ; and sometimes the insides of buildings that have fallen outwards ; and sometimes have apparently both the insides and outsides of buildings that stand upright ; and many of them would, I dare say, be found to be entire, as several of them have in part been found to be.

" To make an end of this general description, you have all the way such a confusion of brick and tiles, and mortar and marble cornices and friezes, and other members and ornaments, together with stucco, and beams and rafters,

and even what seem to have been the trees that stood in the town, and blocks and billets for fuel, together with the earth and matter that appears to have overwhelmed the place, all so blended and crushed, and, as it were, so mixed together, that it is far easier to conceive than to describe.—The ruin in general is not to be expressed.

" Having given your lordship this general account, I will now run over the most remarkable particulars I saw, just as they occur to me, without pretending to order: for as I have hinted already, it was impossible for me to know in what order they stand in respect of each other.

" I saw the outside of a rotunda, which may have been a temple; it is crowned with a dove; it may be about thirty feet in diameter: but I forbear to say any thing of measures; for they will allow of none to be taken. Near it I saw the lower part of a Corinthian column upon the loftiest proportioned brick pedestal I ever observed, and thereabouts some very solid buildings. I soon after passed over what, by the length we saw of it, appears to have been a very vast Mosaic pavement. We soon afterwards perceived ourselves to be got into the inside of a dwelling-house: the rooms appear to have been but small; they are lined with stucco, and painted with a ground of deep red; adorned with compartments either of white or light yellow, and some other colours: our lights were not good enough to make us distinguish. In these compartments were grotesque paintings of birds, beasts, masks, festoons, and the like.

" Soon afterwards, with some difficulty, and by creeping up a very narrow hole of loose earth, we got into an upper apartment of another house. The floor was of stucco, and the earth and rubbish was cleared away from under a great part of it, and found a room lined and adorned in the same manner, and in the same colours, and with the same ground of deep red as the sides. This

room

room may have been about ten or eleven feet high; but the danger of our situation would not permit us to do otherwise than to get out of it as soon as we could.

"Shortly afterwards we were carried, rather ascending as we went, into what seems to have been a principal room of some great house. At the end of it, which is to be seen, there were three large boufets in the wall, all three most admirably painted, partly in grotesque, and partly in perspective, representing temples, houses, gardens and the like, executed with the greatest freedom, judgment, and variety, and very much enlivened with the lightest and most airy ornaments; as is the whole of the room, as far as can be seen; not excepting the roof, which seems to have been a sloping one: and all the lines of the compartments of the painting of it, seem to tend to some ornament that must have been in the middle or centre at the top. What the height of this room may have been, is hard to say; for by the boufets, it appears that there is a good depth to be dug out to get at the floor. I must not omit, that between the painted compartments of this room there is continually a palm tree, represented in so very picturesque a manner, that I think it is one of the most pleasing ornaments I ever saw. What may be the length and breadth of this room is not to be guessed at; for they have not cleared away above, I think, five feet of the end of it I have been giving an account of.

"We afterwards passed through some ordinary rooms belonging to the same house, and through the inside of some other houses, seemingly of less note. Of these insides in general, I shall only say that they are almost always painted of a deep red, sometimes plain, and sometimes adorned with figures, &c.

"It seemed to me twice or thrice, as we passed along, that we turned the corners of streets. Twice I thought we passed fronts of houses; and once particularly we passed

by

by the front, as it seemed, of some very large public edifice, with very broad fluted pilasters of stucco.

" But nothing is more extraordinary relating to this place, than what is demonstratively evident to have been the catastrophe of it.

" That it was partly destroyed by an eruption of the mountain, can never be doubted, and in the following manner :—First, it was set on fire by burning matter from the mountain, and by the time it was well in flames, it was overwhelmed, and the fire was smothered.

" Your lordship will be convinced of this, by what I am going to observe : I have taken notice, that there are every where great quantities of beams and rafters, and trees, and billets of wood scattered up and down. All these are burnt to as fine and perfect a charcoal as ever I saw, and as any body ever made use of. The very largest beams are burnt to the heart, though they have perfectly preserved their form : insomuch, that in all of them I examined, I could perceive every stroke of the axe or tool they were hewn or shaped with.

" That the town was burnt, is as plain as that it was overwhelmed. Now if it had continued to burn for any time, all the beams and rafters would have been consumed to ashes, or have been quite defaced ; whereas, by the fires being suddenly smothered, they became true and perfect charcoal as they are.—This seems to have been the case of that part of it which is hitherto discovered.

" That this destruction was effected by two such violent accidents, suddenly upon the back of each other, may be more natural than to suppose that it was burnt by the same matter that overwhelmed it ; for if that had been the case, I don't know how the paintings could have been preserved so fresh as they are, or indeed at all : nor can it be conceived, that there should not appear some marks of burning in the brick, the marble, the stucco, and the rest.—

Now

Now there is as yet no such thing to be observed; nor does there appear to be any sort of combustible substance mixed with the earth or rubbish. Both above and below, it seems to have been buried in common earth; which could naturally have no share in the burning of the town.

"This may make it to be believed, that it was rather buried by some extraordinary effects of an earthquake which happened at the same time, than by burning matter thrown out of the mountain. That it was set on fire by burning matter from the mountain, cannot well be doubted: but that it was buried by the burning matter from the mountain, appears not to have been at all the case.—In whatever manner the fate of this town was brought upon it, it seems to have been as dreadful a one as could have been inflicted by Nature.

"I will trouble you with but one other observation about it, which is, that the inhabitants seem to have had some dismal warning to forsake it; for in the digging of above a mile and a half, which they compute the several windings and turnings at, they have as yet found but one dead body."

REMARKABLE SHIPWRECK.

[*Communicated by* Mr. Colyer, *of Church Street, Mile End, New Town.*]

Lieut. Drummond, of the Royal Navy, having received permission from the Lords of the Admiralty, to serve as master of a trading vessel, and continue in that line of employment during their pleasure, obtained soon after the command of the Anastatia merchant-ship.—On the 22d of September 1783, he sailed from Providence, in the State of Rhode Island; and on the 24th of that month, from stress of weather and contrary winds, bore up for Rhode Island, and anchored in the Narraganset passage. The gale continued to increase, and at half past 5, A. M. the storm became

became so violent as to strain the ship's sides, and open her seams: her pumps were set to work, and all hands employed to lighten her. The sea broke so violently on the ship, that it washed overboard 39 oxen out of 40, which were a part of the ship's freight.—These were carried with the tide, and most of them perished. At this time the ship parted from her anchors and drove on shore, where the sea in a short time broke over her decks. The people from the shore perceived the ship in distress; but the violence of the sea, which besides being mountains high, ran in a current, prevented any relief from boats. Thus situated, and expecting momentary dissolution, the weary crew clung to the wreck, where they remained till ten o'clock. At this period, Lieutenant Drummond, directing his notice towards the ox that remained on the forecastle, with his head and neck barely out of the water, ordered a rope to be fastened round its horns. The ox was in this state put over the ship's side, and it swam with amazing prowess, and made the shore. The rope fastened to the ox's horn being part of a coil which lay on the forecastle, the ship's crew were able to keep one end of it on board the wreck till the animal reached the shore, when the people on the land made it secure; and a raft being constructed of spars and the loose part of the wreck, Lieutenant Drummond and the ship's crew lashed themselves to it, and were all providentially brought safe to land.

PARTICULARS OF THE LIFE OF JOHN HATFIELD;

An uncommon Impostor, Swindler, Seducer, Bigamist, Hypocrite, &c.

Among the list of those names that swell the numerous instances of human depravity, we believe not one will scarcely be found with so many claims to the notice of our readers, as the present.—John Hatfield has not become a victim to the offended laws by any sudden gust of human

frailty or passion, any deep-laid scheme, or dangerous situation, prepared for him by others.—Neither are his crimes the effects of youthful inexperience, any of which might have claimed on his behalf the sigh of sympathy, or the tear of pity. On the contrary, for twenty years past, John Hatfield has been the calm, the studious, and the deliberate over-reacher of the industrious, the innocent, and the unwary. This disposition, so destructive to the peace and good of society, it will be found, has by him been carried to such a degree, that as far as his propensities were to be gratified, either by swindling or intrigue, he may be compared to our Henry VIII. of whom it has been said, that he neither *spared man in his anger, nor woman in his lust.*

John Hatfield is about 45 years of age; was born in 1759, at a place called Craddenbroke, at the extremity of the county of Chester, adjoining to Yorkshire and Derbyshire.—His father being a clothier, he followed that business under his father, then removed near Chester, and afterwards to Liverpool, where he passed for a gentleman, and where we find nothing of his character, but pleasure and extravagance. Our friends may judge somewhat of his early character, by the following anecdote; that is to say, that while living near Manchester, he never failed being a public visitor to assemblies and balls.—But he had so frequently cheated the chairmen of their fares, that at length they would not carry him; upon which being forced to walk on foot, he made it his common practice to tie a handkerchief round each leg to keep his silk stockings clean, and these handkerchiefs he used to pull off upon the stairs.

His amours, it is said, he commenced near his own native place, with ensnaring the natural daughter of a noble parent, it is said of the late Lord Robert Sutton, brother to the late Marquis of Granby, with a handsome independent fortune, who ran away with and married him.

He

He soon squandered her property, and left her a beggar. For some time she existed on a stipend provided by her friends, and then died of a broken heart. By her he had three daughters, whom he deserted, and one of them is now living in the lowest state of servitude. In the course of his career he visited America, and travelled over many parts of Europe, representing himself as a major in the army, and was much in Ireland, where he was engaged in many duels. The next scene of his exhibition, we hear, was Scarborough; and the particulars of his transactions at that place, are thus detailed in the following letter:—

Scarborough, 17*th Nov.* 1802.

"Hatfield came to Scarborough in March 1792, without any attendants. Possessed of a good address and insinuating manners, he soon introduced himself to persons of the first respectability in the place. He stiled himself Major Hatfield in a regiment of foot, which had served in America during the late war between that country and England. He further added, that he was connected with the Duke of Rutland by marriage, and that he expected (through the patronage of that interest) in a few weeks to be proposed to represent this borough in parliament, upon the acceptance of the Chiltern Hundreds by Lord Tyrconnel, who was then one of the Members. On his arrival at this place he took up his abode at one of the principal inns, and in the course of a few days invited to dinner with him such gentlemen of the Corporation, and others, as seemed to pay too credulous an attention to his specious tales.—He apologized to his new acquaintance for his humble appearance, intimating that he had left his carriages, servants, and horses at York, not having intended to make more than two or three days stay at Scarborough, as the object of this visit (he said) was merely to see the place which he should so soon represent in parliament. He acquitted himself at the head of the table with a gentlemanly ease; and his conversation on that day chiefly turned on

his services in America, and when in Ireland, as aid-de-camp to the late Duke of Rutland, the Lord Lieutenant of that kingdom. The fate of the unfortunate Major Andre being mentioned, conversation was suspended for some few minutes, by attending to Hatfield, down whose cheeks a copious flow of tears was seen to roll. He apologized for this *seeming weakness*, as he termed it, by saying, that the Major (his most intimate friend) a few hours before his death, had committed two amiable sisters to his care and protection. A similar sudden display was exhibited by him on the sight of a portrait print of the late gallant and unfortunate Lord Robert Manners, with whom Hatfield pretended to have lived on terms of the closest intimacy and friendship.

" A fortnight or three weeks having elapsed, Hatfield's worthy host ventured to ask for some £20 on account, when the former readily offered a draft on his banker in London, but which draft was never accepted or paid. In consequence of this, and some other suspicious circumstances, by giving drafts to a tradesman in Scarborough upon a house in London, to the amount of near £80, which were never honoured, his pretensions began to be very generally disputed, and at length it was thought prudent to arrest him for the tavern debt. On the 25th of April 1792, not being able to procure bail, he went to the gaol of this place; and in June 1793 a detainer was lodged against him by Mr. Hamilton of London, for eighty guineas, and others.

" During his confinement, which lasted till September 1800, he experienced many vicissitudes, receiving from some quarter unknown to any person at Scarborough except himself, several remittances, which many times exceeded his debts, but which he hastily spent in idle extravagance, and thus reduced himself to the common allowance of the gaol, except when mistaken benevolence [illegible] In one instance, in particular, he

he received by sale of some property belonging to his first wife, a sum near £180, and about this time he reported that he had been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and applied for the militia band to play to him on that happy event.

"Every half year during his imprisonment, he had the impudence to request the attendance of a magistrate to swear him to an affidavit, in order to obtain half-pay as Major or Lieutenant-Colonel Hatfield. At other times, impatient of his confinement, he would indulge himself with writing supplicant or threatening letters to the Bailiffs of Scarborough, respecting the state of the prison; and he even had the assurance to misrepresent its condition to the late Lord Kenyon, although it is generally allowed to be by all, if not superior, in cleanliness and comfort, the best borough gaol in the kingdom. On the door of his apartment he inscribed an amusing conceit, "*Here was interred John Hatfield*," and the walls of the prison-room still bear testimony to the sportings of his muse. At the end of eight years and a half he obtained his discharge, and also the hand of Miss Nation, a young lady who had a window opposite the prison: being fond of music, it is supposed, they corresponded first by signs, and then by letters, as it is well known she never went to the prison to him, as has been reported.—Nor did they ever speak to each other, till Hatfield obtained his deliverance, though having interested her mother in his behalf, they were much his benefactors while there; but previous to his marriage, in *his usual way*, he made a settlement of some estates in Derbyshire upon the lady, which never belonged to him.—And who, with misplaced confidence, applied part of her own fortune in procuring his release. At ten o'clock of the night of the 12th of September he was liberated, and the next morning was married at Scarborough, and immediately after with his second wife, left the place."

With

With this lady he returned to Heal-Bridge in the parish of Dulverton.—And while there his extravagance continued; insomuch, that in one instance, though he lived only two miles from the church, he sent to Tiverton, the nearest place, being twelve miles distant from his home, for a post-chaise, only to carry himself and his wife to church.

Another time being at a friend's house on a visit, within a few miles of Dulverton, one morning, while waiting in the room for the gentleman, he observed on the wall these lines:

"When you've made a friend,
"Be sure stick by him."

Under which Hatfield immediately wrote with his pencil,

"But e'er you make a man your friend,
"Be sure you try him."

Soon after he arrived at Dulverton, he carried his impositions so far, as to endeavour to purchase estates, and absolutely employed several persons as agents to procure them; and had very nearly succeeded in more than one instance.

It was not long after his arrival in Devon, by the most artful means and insidious misrepresentations, he prevailed on a worthy clergyman, Mr. Nucella, to accept his drafts to a large amount, on the persuasion of his remitting property to provide for them when due.—On the strength of this property, and other insinuations, he became a partner in the firm of Dennis and Company, in that county.—He now visited town, and, with his carriage and establishment, made a splendid figure; and, turning his talents to a seat in parliament, previous to the general election, canvassed the borough of Queenborough; to many electors of which place he must be well known. Suspected, however, by some of his creditors, and threatened with being arrested, he gave up the parliamentary scheme, and having procured a few

a few hundreds he decamped, leaving his second wife in Devonshire with a young infant, and pregnant with another, dependent on the charity of the world. The clergyman who had accepted his drafts, was obliged to fly his duty and his country, to save himself from a prison, and Hatfield was instantly made a bankrupt, to screen himself from his own villainies.

While in London he sported a cream-coloured charger, by which he was then very conspicuous as a public character. At this juncture also, he met an old friend and school-fellow, and acting from his usual habits, after shaking him by the hand, seemed to avail himself of the opportunity to assure him, how happy he was to have it in his power to serve him. He accordingly called on him a day or two after, when his friend being a silver-smith, he ordered silver spoons of him to the amount of £40, for which he never paid, nor ever after saw him more.

But the event which gave the greatest eclat to his name, was in consequence of his visiting Keswick in Cumberland, on a fishing party, in August 1802.—This he undertook in his own carriage, but without any servants; and then took up his abode at the house of old Mr. Robinson, the father of Mary of Buttermere, who kept a small alehouse at the foot of the small Lake.—Here he called himself the Hon. A. A. Hope, Member for Dumfries, and first paid his addresses to Miss D——, a young lady of fortune, from Ireland, who was there at the same time.—He had even obtained her consent, and gone so far as to buy the wedding clothes.—However, a friend that was in the interest of the lady, as it will appear in the sequel, happily prevented this union.—Fortunately for her, the marriage day was not fixed; for, previously to its being fixed, she had persisted, in insisting, "that the pretended Colonel Hope should introduce the subject formally to a gentleman her friend." He was hourly expected to do so, and

and the gentleman was prepared to have required, that "Colonel Hope's enthusiasm should not seduce him into an impropriety.—They were strangers to each other.—He must beg that Colonel Hope would write to certain noblemen and gentlemen both in Ireland and England, whose names and addresses he would furnish him with, and obtain from them every necessary information respecting himself and the young lady under his protection.—As some days would elapse before the answers could be received, he proposed to employ that time in a trip to Lord Hopetoun's seat," &c. &c. This we know, from the best possible authority, to have been the gentleman's intentions; and our adventurer knew it likewise; and this knowledge determined and precipitated his public marriage with Mary of Buttermere.

Thus, our adventurer, well aware that perseverance in this pursuit would inevitably lead to his detection, applied himself wholly to gain possession of Mary Robinson's person. He made the most assiduous enquiries among the neighbours into every circumstance relating to her and to her family; and declared his resolution to marry her publicly at the parish-church by a licence. Mary told him, that she was not ignorant that he had paid his addresses to Miss D——, a match every way more proportionate.—This he treated as a mere venial artifice, to excite her jealousy—in part, perhaps, an effect of despair, in consequence of Mary's repeated refusal.—The conclusion is already well known. The pretended Colonel Hope, in company with the clergyman, procured a licence on the 1st of October, and they were publicly married in the church of Lorton, on Saturday October 2, 1802. Is there on earth that prude or that bigot, who can blame poor Mary? She had given her lover the best reasons to esteem her, and had earned a rational love by innocence and wise conduct. Nor can it be doubted, that the man had really and deeply

engaged

engaged her affections. On the Friday our adventurer wrote to Mr. Moore, informing him that he was under the necessity of being absent for ten days on a journey into Scotland, and sent him a draft for £30 drawn on Mr. Crump of Liverpool, desiring him to cash it, and pay some small debts in Keswick with it, and send him over the balance, as he feared he might be short of cash on the road. This Mr. Crump immediately did, and sent him ten guineas in addition to the balance. On the Saturday, Wood, the landlord of the Queen's Head, returned from Lorton, with the positive intelligence that Colonel Hope had married the Beauty of Buttermere. As it was clear that, whoever he was, he had acted unworthily and dishonourably, Mr. Moore's suspicions were, of course, awakened. He instantly remitted the draft to Mr. Crump, who immediately *accepted* it; and at least ninety-nine in a hundred of the people of Keswick were fully persuaded that he was a true man and no cheat. Mr. M——, however, immediately on this wrote to the Earl of Hopetoun.—Before the answer arrived, the pretended honourable returned with his wife to Buttermere.—He went only as far as Longtown. He had bought Mary no clothes, pretending that on his arrival at the first large town they might be all procured in a few hours.—A pair of gloves was the only present he made her. At Longtown he received two letters—seemed much troubled that some friends whom he expected had not arrived there; stayed three days, and then told his wife that he would again go back to Buttermere. From this time she was seized with fears and suspicions. They returned, however, and their return was made known at Keswick. A Mr. Hardinge, a Welsh Judge, and a very particular gentleman, passing through Keswick, heard of this adventurer, sent his servant over to Buttermere, with a note to the supposed Colonel Hope, who observed that it was a mistake, and that the note was for a

brother of his. However, he sent for four horses, and came over to Keswick, drew another draft on Mr. Crump for 20*l.* which the landlord of the Queen's Head (Oh, the *wise* landlord!) had the courage to cash. Of this sum he immediately sent the ten guineas to Mr. ——, who came and introduced him to the Judge, as his old friend Col. Hope. —Our adventurer made a blank denial that he had ever assumed the name; and a person, a creature of his, who had been his companion at Buttermere, assisted him in it, but in vain; for Sir Fred. Vane, a magistrate near Keswick, granted a warrant for Hatfield's apprehension, on the ground of his having forged several franks, as the Member of Llinlithgow. Hatfield, however, made so light of the matter, that ordering a dinner to be got ready at the inn at three o'clock, laughing, threatening, &c. he said that till then he would go and amuse himself on the Lake.

He went out in a boat, accompanied by his old friend, the fishing-tackler; and a little before three o'clock, a considerable number of inhabitants assembled at the foot of the Lake, waiting anxiously for his return, and by far the greater part were disposed to lead him back in triumph. "If he was not this great man, they were sure that he would prove to be some other great man;" but the dusk came on, neither the great man nor his guide appeared. Burkitt, as I believe I have before informed you, had led him through the Gorge of Borrodale, up through Rossthwaite, and so across the Stake, the fearful Alpine pass, which leads over Glaramara into Langdale, and left him at Langdale Chapel—a tremendous journey in the dark! but his neck was probably predestined to a less romantic fate.—It will hardly be believed, how obstinately almost all classes at Keswick were infatuated in his favour, and how indignantly they spoke of the gentleman who had taken such prudent and prompt measures to bring the impostor to detection. The truth is, the good people of the Vales had

as little heard, and possessed as little a notion, of the existence of the sort of wickedness practised by Hatfield, as of the abominations of Tiberius at Capræ. "What motive (said they) could he have to marry poor Mary?—Would a sharper marry a poor girl without fortune or connection?—If he had married the Irish young lady, Miss D—, there would be something to say for it." It was no doubt delightful for the people of the Vales, that so great a man, that a man so generous, so condescending, so affable, so *very* good, should have married one of their own class, and that too a young woman who had been so long their pride, and so much and so deservedly beloved by them.—But our adventurer, in his flight from Keswick, leaving behind him in his carriage a handsome dressing-box, after the lapse of some days, an order was procured from a neighbouring magistrate, the dressing-box was opened and searched. It contained a pair of very elegant pistols, and a complete assortment of toilet trinkets, all silver. The whole value of the box could not be less than eighty pounds. There were discovered only one letter, a cash-book, and the list of several cities in Italy, with a couple of names attached to each. From the cash-book nothing could be learned, but that he had vested divers considerable sums (some stated to be on his own account,) in the house of Baron Dimsdale and Co.—But from the letter, aided by the list of towns, a marvellous story was extracted.—The letter was said to be from an Irish banditti, urging this Colonel Hope to escape with all possible speed, informing him that a price had been set upon his head, and stating the writer's eagerness to assist him, but that his wounds confined him to his bed. It was concluded, therefore, by the people, that this pretended Colonel Hope was a great leader in the Irish rebellion; but this letter in fact was, neither more or less, than a grateful epistle from a poor exciseman at Glenarm, who had escaped with his life from

an overset boat, and to whom our adventurer had performed some acts of kindness.—For some days nothing else was discovered but a bill for 100*l.* drawn on a Devonshire bank, which he had left behind him with Mary's father and mother; and with which they were to have paid off a mortgage on their little property.

Among other villainous schemes of this merciless wretch, he had attempted to persuade the old people to sell their little estate, to place the money in his hands, and to go with him into Scotland. The bill proved to be an old bill that had been long paid, and (as it will after appear) drawn on his own bank, under the names of Dennis and Co. in Devon.

We heard nothing more concerning the impostor till the 27th or 28th of October, when Mary Robinson discovered, at the bottom of a trunk, which had been left at Buttermere, a large mass of letters.—These she delivered to Mr. ——, who, with his wife and the young lady under their protection, have behaved to her with a kind of tenderness and respect, which does infinite credit to their hearts and understandings.—Never, surely, did an equal number of letters disclose a thicker swarm of villainies perpetrated by one of the worst, and of miseries inflicted on some of the best of human beings.

In this research, she also found various letters addressed to Hatfield, from one of his former wives and children; a circumstance, which added that of a Bigamist, to the rest of his crimes.

Buttermere, near the Lakes, is about nine miles from Keswick by the horse road, and fourteen by the carriage road. From hence we learn, that immediately after his escape from that place, as we have before related, with the assistance of a fisherman, he took refuge on board a sloop off Ravenglass. Finding that he should be detected, he went in the coach to Ulverston, and was seen at the hotel

hotel at Chester about ten days after, where he had, in his usual way, a good supper, and drank his bottle of Madeira; but not being able to obtain a chaise the next morning, he walked away in a great passion to Northwhich.

The supposition of so great a man as Colonel Hope, Member for Linlithgow in Scotland, and brother to the Earl of Hopetoun, having married a poor young woman at a village in Cumberland, as it could not fail being descanted on in the newspapers, was also very soon contradicted upon the best authorities, by the Lord Advocate of Scotland, &c. &c.

These contradictions, which appeared only ten days after Hatfield was married, were succeeded in November by an advertisement of £50 reward, describing him as a notorious imposter, swindler, and felon, who lately married a young woman, commonly called the Beauty of Buttermere, under an assumed name.—Height about 5 feet 10 inches, age about 44, full face, bright eyes, thick eye-brows, strong but light beard, good complexion, some colour, thick but not very prominent nose, smiling countenance, fine teeth, a scar on one of his cheeks near the chin, very long thick light hair, with a great deal of it grey, done up in a club; stout, square shouldered, full breast and chest, rather corpulent and stout limbed, but very active, and has rather a spring in his gait, with apparently a little hitch in bringing up one leg; the two middle fingers of his left hand are stiff from an old wound, and he frequently has a custom of putting them straight with his right, &c.

It was not many days after the appearance of these advertisements, that Hatfield was apprehended near Brecknock in Wales; and at that time was so incautious as to wear a cravat marked with his initials, "J. H." which he attempted to account for, by calling himself "John Henry." When brought before the magistrate, he declared himself to be "Tudor Henry;" and in order to prepossess the honest

honest Cambrians in his favour, boasted that he was descended from an ancient family in Wales, for the inhabitants of which country, he had ever entertained a most sincere regard.

However, on Sunday evening December 12, this famous character was brought to town from Brecknock in Wales, by Pearks, one of the Bow-street officers, under authority of a warrant, signed by Sir Richard Ford, &c.—He was afterwards examined before Sir Richard Ford and T. Robinson, Esq. Hatfield wrote a note to Sir R. Ford, requesting he might be permitted to have his irons taken off, while under examination, which request was complied with; and Mr. Fenwick, the governor of Tothill-fields Bridewell, brought him into the Office himself. Nothing could be fully entered into at the first examination, the necessary witnesses not being present. Mr. Taunton, the Solicitor for the Bankruptcy, produced the Gazette, where it was recorded on the 15th of June last; and also the Lord Chancellor's order for enlarging the time of appearing to the 18th of September; but stated that he did not appear to such order.—Mr. Taunton also produced a bill of exchange for the sum of £30 drawn in the name of Hope, which he had reason to believe had been written and negotiated by the prisoner.—The gentleman to whom the said bill had been passed, not being in town, this affair stood over.—A copy of the register of the prisoner's marriage, in the name of Alexander Augustus Hope with Mary Robinson (the Beauty of Buttermere), at Lorton, on the 2d of October 1802, by the Rev. John Nicholson, was produced; and Sir R. Ford said, he should certainly write to this unfortunate young woman immediately, to inform her that he was in custody, that she might come and prefer the charge against him.—The prisoner made hardly any reply, except in answer to some few questions respecting the said marriage: he complained much of the inconvenience of his

his situation, and wished to go to Newgate; which could not be complied with. Mr. Taunton, however, said, he would undertake to allow him a guinea and a half per week for the present. The prisoner was then remanded back to Tothill-fields Bridewell.

Hatfield, on Saturday preceding his removal from Brecon gaol to London, wrote a letter, addressed to a friend in London, signed with his real name, "John Hatfield;" in which he mentioned, that he never had any intimation of his being declared a bankrupt, until the 12th of November last; nor did he ever see or hear of the Post Office advertisement against him, until he was in custody; and that he had taken the name of Tudor Henry, to avoid the too probable effects of the misrepresentation that had been made public against him.

On the third examination of Hatfield at Bow-street, some objections were made in his favour, but were overruled. In his fourth examination, being put to the bar, Sir Richard Ford addressed him as follows:—

"Mr. Hatfield!—You are now brought up to answer the last charge against you, viz. the bigamy—I mean the false and base marriage you contracted with poor Mary of Buttermere; and a more vile transaction lies not in my remembrance. I have received a letter from you, written in an extraordinary style of complaint, as to the aspersions thrown upon your character; but, notwithstanding the insinuation of your manner, and the probable superiority of your talents, which you have so shamefully prostituted, I shall persist in branding vice with the name of vice, wherever I meet with it, and it is the fullest conviction on my mind which induces me now to tell you, Mr. Hatfield, that, in my opinion, a more infamous character than yourself never stood at the bar. Not content with basely imposing upon the credulity of an innocent girl, and robbing her of the only jewel in her possession—an unspotted

unspotted fame—you have, to pamper your own luxury, contracted a considerable debt with her poor aged parent, which, unless relieved by the hand of liberality, will infallibly be his ruin!"

Here Hatfield exclaimed, with visible emotion, "Not true! (and laying his right hand upon his heart) Not true, upon my soul!" Sir R. Ford.—"It is true; and, in confirmation of it, hear this from a respectable magistrate at Keswick:—The villain has contracted a debt with the distressed father exceeding 180*l.*" Hatfield.—"It is not true; and I entreat, Sir Richard, that I may not be thus devoured piece-meal. I solemnly declare, that altogether I do not owe 10*l.* in the whole county." Sir R. Ford.—"Sir, your whole life has been one unexampled scene of villainy. I have my table covered with debts that you have fraudulently contracted, and I can trace you back for thirty years. Do you remember this bill for 30*l.* drawn on a very respectable gentleman, standing at present on your right hand, Capt. Smith of the navy." Captain Smith here observed, "that he did not wish to prefer it as a charge." Hatfield.—"I am sure Captain Smith will not say I meant to defraud him?" Captain Smith.—"I do not know what you mean by a fraud; but this I know, that the bill has not yet been paid." Mr. Robinson.—"About 20 years ago you defrauded Mr. Noades, the silver-smith." Hatfield.—"Sir, I never knew him." Mr. Robinson.—"I saw your signature to the bill." Sir Rich. Ford.—"Mr. Reeves, read this letter aloud, which I have received from poor Mary of Buttermere."

Universal silence prevailed; the auditors were full of expectation, whilst Mr. Reeves read the following letter, which had on it the post mark of Keswick:—

"Sir,—The man whom I had the misfortune to marry, and who has ruined "me and my aged and unhappy parents, always told me that he was the "Hon. Colonel Hope, the next brother to the Earl of Hopetoun.

"Your grateful and unfortunate servant, MARY ROBINSON."

The

The unaffected simplicity of this letter, coming from one who, though wounded in the most feeling manner, abstained from the severity of reproach; and though it breathed the soft murmur of complaint, yet was, throughout, remote from virulence or abuse, excited in the breast of every person present, the sympathetic emotion of pity and respect for the unmerited sorrows of a female, who has manifested a delicacy of sentiment, and nobleness of mind, infinitely beyond her sphere or education.

Another letter was also received by Sir Richard Ford, from a gentleman at Keswick; by which it appeared, that Mary Robinson declined prosecuting Hatfield for bigamy, being very far advanced in her pregnancy; although she expresses the greatest detestation of his actions, &c.

However, he had not much to fear from the charge of bigamy; his second wife travelled two days and a night from Devonshire, to spend Christmas Day with him in Tothill-fields Bridewell; and set off the following morning at 5 o'clock on her return to the same country.

On the 16th of December, a cause, in which Hatfield was interested, was brought into the Court of Common Pleas, before Lord Alvanley and a special Jury, as follows: NUCELLA *versus* DENNIS *and* Co.—This was an action to recover a large sum of money advanced to Mr. John Hatfield, to enable him to establish a bank at Tiverton in Devonshire, in concert with the defendant his partner. It appeared that 3,500*l.* Four per Cent. Bank stock had been advanced, and that when the time for payment came round, Hatfield attempted to amuse the plaintiff by putting him off, stating, that he was on the point of marriage with a young lady of great fortune and connection, and that when the nuptials were solemnized, he would most faithfully discharge the debt. The plaintiff, however, not feeling disposed to be entertained with "*Love's Labour Lost*," arrested the defendant, Mr. Hatfield's partner in the bank, for the amount of his demand. The partnership

was clearly proved, when the defendant set up a plea of usury; but not succeeding in proof, a verdict was given for the plaintiff to the full amount of his demand.

Hatfield appears on many occasions undaunted, but in none more than this.—During one of his examinations at Bow-street, he said that he had received an anonymous letter, and requested that it might be read aloud; but Sir Richard observing that it might be improper, Hatfield then said, "If the writer, or any one concerned in it be present, I could wish he would stand forth and boldly declare his motives for persecuting a man whose mind is already sufficiently harrassed." No answer being returned to this appeal, Hatfield was remanded, and retired with the air of a man who conceives his reputation and character unjustly calumniated.

Among the various theatres of his address, we have also heard that this itinerant swindler once figured in Dublin; it was during the administration of the Duke of Rutland, he lodged at the most eminent hotel in that city, professing to be a relative of his Grace, and affected to have accompanied the Viceroy in his travels on the continent, every part of which he described with the confidence of intimate and personal knowledge. He had all the appearance of a man of fashion, and on going out every day he was accustomed to furnish his pockets with a large quantity of half-pence, which he distributed to the beggars with ostentatious liberality. At length having involved himself considerably in debt, he was arrested; but had the address to extricate himself from prison, by appealing to the generosity of the Duke himself; and, on being enlarged, he contrived to renew his debts with the same creditors, and to borrow several sums of money proportioned to the circumstances or confidence favouring his demands, among which was a small sum from the owner of the hotel where he lodged. Thus supplied, he changed the scene of his impositions, and repaired the first opportunity to Scotland.

land. It is recollected that his person then, with the advantage of more youth, corresponded with the description now given of him, and he was attended by a servant man of more than common appearance and address, and who, in a subordinate character, was probably the accomplice of his deceptions.

Account of his Trial and Conviction, on Monday the 15th of August, at Carlisle, before Baron Thompson.

THERE were three indictments preferred against him.—In the first of these he stood charged with assuming the name of the Hon. Alexander Augustus Hope, and under that name drawing a Bill of Exchange on one John Crump, Esq. payable to George Wood, a publican, in Keswick.—In the second he was charged with forging, under the same name, another Bill for thirty pounds, with intent to defraud the same persons.—The third indictment charged him with counterfeiting Colonel Hope's hand-writing, in superscribing various letters, with a view of defrauding government of the postage.

The prisoner pleaded Not Guilty.

Mr. Scarlet, Counsel for the Crown, opened the case with a great deal of moderation, drew an outline of the prisoner's conduct, from the time he became known to the world, in the assumed character of Colonel Hope. He had, he said, committed many crimes, under cover of the name of a most respectable gentleman, who belonged to a noble and an ancient family. He came into this country to reside, in autumn last, in his own carriage, but unattended by a servant; this excited some degree of surprise among the inhabitants, but he cleared up this, by saying he had given his servant leave to go away from him, he being much terrified with the tremendous mountains of Keswick and its neighbourhood. During his residence in this county, he partly lived at Keswick, partly at Buttermere, where he amused himself with fishing and other innocent diversions: during this time his behaviour was always correct

rect and proper; he was constant at public worship, and appeared in every respect with the manners and character of a gentleman.—And several passages of his letters were read by Mr. Scarlet, written to the Rev. Mr. Nicholson, from Longtown; in one of these describes particularly an affecting sermon he heard from the Rev. Mr. Graham, brother of Sir James Graham, Bart. of Nethenley, and in the same letter copied an inscription from a tomb-stone in Arthuret church-yard. In this letter he speaks with great affection of his beloved Mary. Indeed it was allowed upon all hands, that the prisoner conducted himself with singular propriety, and always made it a point to attend public worship.

It appeared that Mr. Hardinge, a Welsh Judge, being upon a tour to the Lakes, and suspecting Hatfield, in consequence of a previous knowledge with Col. Hope, sent an invitation to the adventurer to dine with him.—This he declined, but came afterwards; when Mr. Hardinge's suspicions being realized, he ordered the landlord of the inn to stop Hatfield's horses, and took proper measures to have him secured; but under pretence of amusing himself on the Lake, Hatfield decamped.

Mr. ——, a gentleman, whose name was not distinctly heard on the trial, being called and sworn, said, he knew the prisoner at the bar by the name of Hatfield. He entered into the firm in 1801, of "Dennis, Hatfield, and Co.;" saw the prisoner in April 1802, when he left Tavistock, on pretence of transacting some of the Company's concerns. The next time he saw him was in the gaol, in Brecknockshire, in December 1802. The deponent swore positively to the hand-writing of the prisoner, both in the letters produced and in the bills of exchange.

Rev. Mr. Nicholson called.—He became acquainted with the prisoner on Sunday September 12, 1802, on which day he attended the chapel of Loweswater, of which the deponent is chaplain—was introduced to the prisoner by

by Mr. Skelton; soon after he understood him to be the Honourable Colonel Hope, brother to Lord Hopetoun; when asked his name by deponent, he said it was a comfortable one—*Hope*—he said at the same time that he would be no way averse to telling his name, but did not like it to be inquired after by inquisitive people.—About a week previous to October 2, deponent accompanied the prisoner to Whitehaven, to procure a licence for his marriage to Mary Robinson of Buttermere, who was spoken of by the prisoner as a *lovely girl!*

Mr. Nicholson also swore to his being the person who married the prisoner to Mary Robinson, commonly called Mary of Buttermere, on the 2d of October 1802—that after his marriage, he was on terms of intimacy with the prisoner—that the prisoner made him his confidential friend, told him of various concerns that happened to his family, &c.

Mr. George Wood, of Keswick, inn-keeper, had seen the prisoner at his house frequently, with a Col. Moore and Mr. Crump, in the summer of 1802; he travelled in his own carriage, and passed for Col. Hope; parcels came directed for him, "The Hon. A. A. Hope, M. P. Wood's Hotel, Keswick." He knew the prisoner had drawn a bill for 30*l.* on Mr. Crump of Liverpool, in favour of Colonel Moore, which bill was sent and accepted, and paid; and Colonel Moore, on receiving the money, paid witness's bill upon the prisoner, out of it. On the 13th of October 1802, witness came in from his farm, and met the prisoner and the Rev. Mr. Nicholson at breakfast at the witness's house; when the prisoner enquired if his bill upon Mr. Crump, in favour of Col. Moore, had been paid; to which he answered in the affirmative.

After a variety of evidence, Col. Parker was sworn.—Said he was well acquainted with Col. Hope, brother to the Earl of Hopetoun, a General in the Army, and Col. of the 17th Regiment of Dragoons.—He had been in Ireland

land about three years.—He said the prisoner at the bar is not Col. Hope; he did not know whether the regiment was in Egypt or not.—Here the evidence for the prosecution closed.

The prisoner then addressed himself to the Jury.—"He said he felt some degree of satisfaction in being able to have his sufferings terminated, as they must of course be by their verdict. For the space of nine months he had been dragged from prison to prison, and torn from place to place, subject to all the misrepresentations of calumny.—Whatever will be my fate, (said he) I am content; it is the award of justice, impartially and virtuously administered.—But I will solemnly declare, that in all my transactions, I never intended to defraud or injure the persons whose names have appeared in the prosecution.—This I will maintain to the last of my life."

The prisoner called in his defence, a Mr. Newton, attorney at Chester; whose evidence was of very little purpose.

The Judge having summed up the whole, the Jury consulted about ten minutes, and then returned a verdict—*Guilty of Forgery.*

At eight o'clock the next morning (Tuesday), the Court met, when the prisoner appeared at the Bar, to receive his sentence.

After proceeding in the usual form, the Judge addressed him in the following terms:—"John Hatfield! after a long and serious investigation of the charges which have been preferred against you, you have been found guilty by a Jury of your country.—You have been distinguished for crimes of such magnitude as have seldom, if ever, rereceived any mitigation of capital punishment, and in your case it is impossible it can be remitted. Assuming the person, name, and character of a worthy and respectable officer, of a noble family in this country, you have perpetrated and committed the most enormous crimes.—The long imprisonment which you have undergone, has afforded

afforded time for your serious reflection, and an opportunity of your being deeply impressed with a sense of the enormity of your guilt, and the justice of that sentence which must be inflicted upon you; I wish you to be seriously impressed with the awfulness of your situation, and to reflect with anxious care and deep concern on your approaching end, concerning which, much remains to be done—lay aside now your delusion and imposition, and employ properly the short space of time you have to live. I beseech you to employ the remaining part of your time for eternity, that you may find mercy at the hour of death, and in the day of judgment.—Hear now the sentence of the law."

His Lordship then pronounced sentence of death upon the prisoner, in the usual form; who heard it with firmness, bowed respectfully, and was taken away from the Dock, and thence to the Gaol.

Happily for Mary of Buttermere, the child with which she was pregnant by Hatfield, was still-born.—However, it has been observed, that to beauty, in the strictest sense of the word, her pretensions could be but small.—She is said to be rather gap-toothed, and somewhat pock-marked. Those, therefore, who gave her the epithet of the *Beauty*, should rather have styled her the *Grace* of Buttermere; as her figure, her movements, her face, and accomplishments, are highly entitled to such a distinction.—She is now about thirty, and added to her personal attractions, has ever maintained an irreproachable character, as a good daughter, and a modest, sensible, and observant woman. She was also noticed for writing a very fine Italian hand.

N. B. HATFIELD's *Letters*, *Poetry*, *&c. &c. in our next.*

SAMUEL HORSEY, AN UNFORTUNATE LABOURER;

With his Portrait.

THIS person, who has so long past, that is to say, during 12 years attracted the notice of the public, by the severity

of

of his misfortunes, in the loss of both his legs, and the singular means by which he removes himself from place to place, by the help of a wooden seat constructed in the manner of a rocking-horse, and assisted by a pair of crutches, first met with this calamity by the falling of a piece of timber from a house at the lower end of Bow-lane, Cheapside. He is now 55 years of age, and commonly called the King of the Beggars; and as he is very corpulent, the facility he moves with is very singular. From his general appearance and complexion, he seems to enjoy a state of health remarkably good. The frequent obtrusion of a man naturally stout and well-made, but now so miserably mutilated as he is, having excited the curiosity of great numbers of people daily passing through the most crowded avenues of this metropolis, has been the leading motive of this account, and the striking representation of his person here given.

A SINGULAR SPECIES OF MONKEY AND OURANG OUTANG,

Sometime since caught in South America.

THE first is now shewing in New York; it is low in stature, not more than ten inches high; walks erect, and has a strong resemblance of the human features.—Its sagacity appears in a very retentive memory and a quick conception. Hence it has been taught a variety of scientific tricks, which it occasionally varies, and combines in such a manner as to prove it is possessed of the powers of reasoning. An American ship has also brought an ourang outang from Java, of prodigious strength, and upwards of six feet high. During the voyage he was taught most of a seaman's duty, and could even hand and reef as well as any man on board. Since on shore, he can cut wood, carry water, turn a spit, and wait at table. We also hear of another of these animals that was brought from Sierra Leona, that made beds, washed tea cups, and was in many respects an active and obedient servant.

The

The following is a COPY *of* LETTERS *from* Mr. HATFIELD, *under the Name of* COLONEL HOPE, *to the* REVEREND Mr. NICHOLSON.

(Concluded from Page 331.)

Longtown, Monday Evening, 4th October.

" VERY DEAR AND REV^d. SIR,

" WE arrived here on Saturday evening about eight, went to the church on Sunday, and Mr. Graham, the brother of Sir James, gave one of the finest lectures I ever heard. We attended his evening discourse, at the end of which he addressed me, begging I would not return to my quarters without a light, and his footman stood ready with one. All this flurried my dear Mary a little, but nothing can be more pleasing than the manner she at all times possesses. To-morrow evening, we may perhaps proceed further; but Mrs. Hope likes the quietude of this place much, and her wishes are my laws.—In the churchyard we found the following inscription, which I copied on purpose to send you, thinking it may amuse some of our friends; pray read it to Dr. Head, and present him my best respects:—

One [illegible]
Some only breakfast, and away.
Others to dinner stay, and are full fed;
The oldest man but sups, and goes to bed.
Large is his debt, who lingers out the day;
Who goes the soonest, has the least to pay.

" Be pleased to say for us both, whatever you think will be acceptable to those, who, from kind motives, may enquire after us; and at Battermere, Mary desires you will tender to father and mother the most affectionate duty, and the most lively assurances of our mutual happiness. I find happiness is not very loquacious, so this will be a short letter; let us have a long one as soon as possible, addressed for Col. Hope, M. P. Post-[illegible], [illegible], Cumberland.—And you will [illegible]

Very dear and [illegible]

Longtown, October 4th, [illegible]
Rev. Mr. Nicholson, [illegible]
Cockermouth, [illegible]

FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Longtown, Sunday Night, 10th Oct. 180?

"VERY DEAR AND REV. SIR,

"ANXIOUS that my dear Mary might hear from her parents as soon as possible, we returned from Scotland to this town on Friday evening, and shall most probably proceed for Carlisle to-morrow; indeed your letter received this afternoon makes me very desirous of returning to Buttermere, that I may properly answer all such persons as assume the privilege of censuring my conduct, and are mean enough to disturb the peace of our parents.

"We are, thank God! very well, and happy as our friends can wish us. The Colonel has given himself much unnecessary trouble, and I am sorry for it, because in this he will be sorry too. I wrote to him on Wednesday last, and this day find his hand-writing on the superscription of a letter forwarded to me from Keswick. If I had ever expressed to him any affection for Miss D—, except such as you have witnessed—if I had ever dropped a word on the subject to him, he might have had some plea for complaint.—But God knows, and he knows, I never did.—He has my free leave to write to all the world, if he finds any pleasure in such proceedings; but no person, who really knows me, will believe, that Miss D— has been deceived by me.

"I wish I could be certain where this will reach you, but fearing it may not be at Cockermouth soon enough for you to get it by the market people on the morrow, it is not in my power to say where or when we can meet previous to my arrival at Buttermere, which will very probably be before the middle of this week.

"Be pleased to present my best respects to Mrs. and Miss Wood. I will remember with permanent gratitude their goodness on this occasion, and amidst the strange vicissitudes of this very eventful life, perhaps I may be [illegible] of showing how truly sen[illegible] on this occasion.

"With

" With the truest respect, esteem, and gratitude to all my well-wishers,

I am, very dear and Rev. Sir, yours ever,

A. HOPE."

' Love and duty attend those to whom they are due; and I beg you will tell them not to make any preparations for our return, for I shall have to move about almost as soon as I arrive, and my Mary will love quietness.'

If any thing could add to this man's hypocrisy, it can only be his impudent assumption of innocence, to this *his verse*, as well as *prose*, bears ample testimony; especially the following, which has been published at Chester, as being written by him :—

" Loud howl the winds around my prison-house,
Dull are the days, and wearisome my nights;
Care-worn, my spirits nothing now can rouse,
Ev'n gen'rous wine itself no more delights.
Lost to the world, from ev'ry comfort torn,
Ill us'd by those who should have been my friends,
I almost curse the hour that I was born,
And sigh for that when worldly sorrow ends.
By knaves and fools I've been so long abus'd,
By sland'rous lips have been so much bely'd,
Without a cause have been so much accus'd,
And have so long in vain for justice cry'd,
That my whole soul abhors this wretched life.
One boon alone I from your town would crave,
That, when I've shuffled off this mortal strife,
The Corporation may give me a grave;
On which, when some kind hand has plac'd a stone,
It may in plain but modest language tell,
And kindly to inquirers make it known,
By whose vile art the harmless stranger fell."

" Here rest the remains of John Hatfield, who died broken-hearted, in the gaol of this town, where he was confined by * * * *, at the instigation and by the advice of * * * *. A known scene of the injuries heaped on him by his persecutor, who, after confining his person, did all he could, by letters and otherwise, to vilify him, preyed too powerfully on his spirits, and he fell a victim to malicious falsehoods in his 36 year, A. D. 1797."

ANOTHER.

" Lo! where the ancient marbles weep,
And all the worthy Hatfields sleep,
Amongst them soon may I recline,
Oh! may their hallow'd tombs be mine.
When in that sacred vault I'm laid,
Heaven grant it may with truth be said,
His heart was warm'd with faith sincere,
And soft humanity dwelt there.
My children oft' will mourn their father's woe,
Heart-easing tears from their sweet eyes will flow;
My * * * *, too, relenting, when I'm dead,
O'er past unkindness, tender tears will shed.

J. H. 10th July 1794."

In addition to the particulars we have already mentioned, during Hatfield's trial, we have now to mention what occurred to an eye-witness at Carlisle, who writes as follows:

Carlisle, August 29, 1803.

" Of the trial of Hatfield, and of his condemnation, you have already been amply informed. I send you now a few particulars of his behaviour since sentence of death was passed upon him. You have heard that his behaviour was firm and collected during the first part of his trial: he attended minutely to the evidence, and took notes, and transmitted them to his Counsel, Messrs. Topping and Holroyd; but when Mr. Quick, who was clerk in the house at Tiverton, in which Hatfield was a partner, swore to his hand-writing to the £30 bill drawn upon Mr. Crump of Liverpool, he then seemed deeply agitated, took no more notes, and appeared prepared for the verdict that was given against him. The Court was amazingly thronged, but he did not once look round upon the persons present.—His eyes were fixed upon the witnesses, and the Judge and Jury; as soon as the verdict was given, he bowed to the Judge, and retired without saying a word.—A post-chaise conveyed him from the hall to the prison; he was

cool and collected during the time he was in the chaise; and as soon as he got back to his room, he fell upon his knees, and prayed in a fervent and serious manner for about half an hour; after which he desired some refreshment. His behaviour, when sentence of death was passed upon him next morning, was equally cool and deliberate. He knelt, look fixedly at the Judge, bowed, but said not a word.

"I had an opportunity of seeing him soon after his return to prison on the morning of his condemnation.—He was writing when I entered his room, but seemed perfectly resigned to his fate. I conversed with him a good deal, and he told me that he had been fairly tried and convicted by the laws of his country; that indeed the world was now, and had long been, a misery to him—that he had been unhappy in his mind for nearly twenty years. The original cause of that unhappiness I could not learn, nor, as he did not think proper to disclose it, did I press him upon the subject. He said, he had for some time past been employed in making his peace with the Almighty, whose pardon, he humbly hoped, he should obtain, and who, he fervently prayed, would give him fortitude to bear the last great event, that should close this world upon him for ever. I left him in a few minutes after he had expressed this hope, and as I quitted the room, I observed him drop on his knees in prayer.—He does not seem to entertain the slightest hope of being pardoned.

"He passes much of his time in reading and writing; a great part of every day has been employed in writing letters to his acquaintance: the number of these letters are very great. The rest of his time he passes in prayer, and reading the Bible. None of his relations have visited him since his condemnation. He keeps entirely in his own room, and will see no one but those belonging to the gaol, and two clergymen of the Church of England, Mr. Pattison of Carlisle, and Mr. Nevins of Burgh on Sands. They have

have been much with him, and he expresses himself under great obligations to them for their humane assistance, as well as to the keeper of the gaol and his assistants, for their kindness and attention to him. Neither before his trial, nor since his condemnation, has he ever alluded to his connection with Mary of Buttermere, nor even mentioned her name.—This morning he desired all his hair to be cut off; it was flaxen, and remarkably long and thick.—He says he intends sending it to some of his friends."

Another letter of the 31st says,—"Since I wrote to you last, Hatfield continues to pass his time in writing to his friends, and in reading. His appetite has failed him, and he lives chiefly upon coffee. I had an opportunity of seeing and conversing with him to-day for some time. He applied this morning to one of the clergymen who attends him, Mr. Pattison, to recommend him a tradesman to make his coffin. Mr. Joseph Bushby, of this town, took measure of him about half an hour ago. He did not appear to be at all agitated while Mr. Bushby was so employed. He told the latter that he desired the coffin to be a strong oak one, plain and neat. 'I request, Sir,' he added, 'that after I am taken down, I may be put into the coffin immediately, with the apparel I may have on, and afterwards closely screwed down, put into the hearse which will be in waiting, carried to the church-yard of Burgh on Sands, and there be interred in the evening.'

"From the hour when the Jury found him guilty, he has behaved with the utmost serenity and cheerfulness.—He received the visits of all those who wished to see him, and talked upon the topics of the day with the greatest interest or indifference. He could scarcely ever be brought to speak of his own case. He neither blamed the verdict, nor made any confession of his guilt. He said that he had no intention to defraud those whose names he forged; but was never heard to say that he was to die unjustly."

A third

A third letter from Carlisle, dated Saturday Sept. 3.—"I now send you the account of the Execution of Hatfield. His irons were struck off this morning about ten o'clock: he appeared as usual, and I did not observe any alteration or increased agitation whatever. Soon after ten o'clock he sent for the Carlisle Journal, and perused it for some time; a little after he laid aside the paper, two Clergymen attended, and prayed with him for about two hours, and drank coffee with him. After they left him (about twelve), he wrote some letters, and in one inclosed his pen-knife: it was addressed to London. The Sheriff, the Bailiffs, and the Carlisle Volunteer Cavalry attended at the gaol door about half past three, together with a post-chaise and a hearse. He was then ordered into the Turnkey's Lodge for the purpose of getting pinioned, where he inquired of the Gaoler who were going in the chaise with him? He was told the Executioner and the Gaoler. He immediately said, 'Pray where is the Executioner, I should wish much to see him.' The Executioner was sent for; Hatfield asked him how he was, and made him a present of some silver in a paper. During the time of his being pinioned, he stood with resolution, and requested he might not be pinioned tight, as he wished to use his handkerchief when on the platform, which was complied with. He then left the prison, and wished his fellow-prisoners might be happy. When he came in sight of the tree, he said to the Gaoler, he imagined that was the tree (pointing at it) that he was to die on. On being told yes, 'O! a happy sight, I see it with pleasure.' Then he desired the Hangman to be as expert as possible about it, and that he would wave a handkerchief when he was ready. The Hangman not having fixed the rope in its proper place, he put up his hand and turned it himself.—He also tied his cap, took his handkerchief from his own neck, and tied it about his head also.—Then he requested the Gaoler would step upon the platform

form and pinion his arms a little harder, saying, that when he lost his senses, he might attempt to place them to his neck. The rope was then completely fixed about five minutes before four o'clock—it was slack, and he merely said, '*May the Almighty bless you all.*' Nor did he faulter in the least when he tied the cap, shifted the rope, and took his handkerchief from his neck. He hung in the midst of a great number of spectators for one hour, when he was cut down, and interred in St. Mary's church-yard, the usual place of interment for those who come to an untimely end; the parishioners of Burgh objecting to his being laid there."

Another account says,—" A notion very generally prevailed that he would not be brought to justice, and the arrival of the mail was daily expected with the greatest impatience. No pardon arriving, Saturday the 3d was at last fixed upon as the day of execution. Accordingly the post coming in a little before three o'clock, and bringing neither pardon nor reprieve, the Under-Sheriff and a detachment of the Cumberland Yeomanry immediately repaired to the prison near the English gate. A prodigious crowd had previously assembled.—This was the market day, and people had come from the distance of many miles out of mere curiosity.—A post-chaise was brought for him from the Bush Inn. Having taken farewell of the Clergyman, who attended him to the door, he mounted the steps with much steadiness and composure.—The Gaoler and the Executioner went in along with him.—The latter had been brought from Dumfries upon a retaining fee of ten guineas.

" It was exactly four o'clock when the procession moved from the gaol. Passing through the Scotch gate, in about twelve minutes it arrived at the Sands.—Half the Yeomanry went before the carriage, and the other behind.—Upon arriving on the ground, they formed a ring round the scaffold.—It is said that Hatfield wished to have had the blinds

drawn up, but that such an indulgence was held inconsistent with the interests of public justice.

" As soon as the carriage door had been opened by the Under-Sheriff, Hatfield alighted with his two companions. A small dung-cart boarded over, had been placed under the gibbet. A ladder was placed to this stage, which he instantly ascended. He was dressed in a black jacket, black silk waistcoat, fustian pantaloons, white cotton stockings, and ordinary shoes. He wore no powder in his hair. He seemed at least fifty, and there was something grave and reverend in his aspect, which for a moment made one forget all the crimes laid to his charge. He was perfectly cool and collected; at the same time he shewed no disposition to *die game*. His conduct displayed nothing of levity, of insensibility, or of hardihood. He was more anxious to give proof of resignation than of heroism.—His countenance was extremely pale, but his hand never trembled.

" He immediately untied his neck-handkerchief, and placed the bandage over his eyes. The Executioner was extremely awkward, and Hatfield found it necessary to give various directions as to the placing of the rope, and the proper method of driving away the cart. He several times put on a languid and piteous smile.—He at last seemed rather exhausted and faint. Having been near three weeks under sentence of death, he must have suffered much, notwithstanding his external bearing, and a reflection of the misery he had occasioned must have given him many an agonizing throe.

" Having taken leave of the Gaoler and the Sheriff, he prepared himself for his fate. He was at this time heard to exclaim, ' My spirit is strong, though my body is weak.'

" Great apprehensions were entertained that it would be necessary to tie him up a second time. The noose slipped twice, and he fell down above eighteen inches.—His feet at last were almost touching the ground. But his

excessive weight, which occasioned this accident, speedily relieved him from pain. He expired in a moment, and without any struggle.

"He was cut down after he had hung about an hour.—On Wednesday last he had made a carpenter take his measure for a coffin. He gave particular directions that it should be large, as he meant to be laid in it with all his clothes on. It was made of oak, adorned with plates, and extremely handsome every way. A hearse followed with it to the ground, and afterwards bore him away.—He was then buried in a corner of the church-yard of St. Mary's, Carlisle, at a distance from the tombs, without any ceremony; and in less than two hours, the whole of the crowd had dispersed."

We have been thus minute in the particulars of the life of a man, who, having occupied so much of the public attention, had made himself of importance.—But Hatfield, however, did not persist in his innocence, as some hardened criminals have done; nor did he insult the ears or understandings of the multitude that came to see him die, with any fanatical effusions that often do more harm than good—the law had laid him under the sword of justice, and he received the final stroke without murmur or complaint. One thing still we ought not to omit; viz. a report that Mary of Buttermere opened and carried on a correspondence with him by letters, while he was in confinement, and was scarcely dissuaded by her friends from paying him a personal visit.

The HISTORY *of* REMARKABLE EARTHQUAKES *in England, and elsewhere.*

(*Continued from Page 338.*)

IN the *Philosophical Transactions*, page 307, give an account of an earthquake felt very sensibly at a place called Skeathill, about eight miles south-west from Dartford, and that the same morning a piece of ground in a meadow in Farningham,

ham about five miles south of Dartford, sunk so as to leave a pit about eight or ten feet over, and nearly of the same depth, which was that morning filled with water, within three or four feet of the top, though that spot of ground was supposed to have been as sound as any about it, carts having several times gone over that very place.

April 30, 1736.—At noon, and at twelve next morning, there was a violent earthquake along the Ockhil Hills in Scotland, which rent several houses, and put the people to flight. These two shocks were each attended with a great noise under ground.

December 30, 1739.—In Halifax, Eland, Huddersfield, and other towns in the West Riding of Yorkshire, was felt a sudden and violent earthquake, the moveable utensils rattling and rolling about, and people fearing to be tumbled out of their beds. It seemed as if the earth had moved out of its place, in a line parallel to that of the horizon, and again returned to its former situation, with reciprocal vibrations, which ended in a minute or two with a hissing hollow report, and a quivering of all the things on its surface.

Tuesday, Feb. 8, 1749–50.—At about thirty minutes after twelve, an earthquake was suddenly felt throughout London and Westminster, and also at Deptford, Greenwich, and even as far as Gravesend, at Payne's Bridge between Rumford and Brentwood, at Coopersale near Epping, at Woodford, Walthamstow, Hertford, Highgate and Finchley—but not at Barnet. It was just perceived at Richmond in Surrey, and Bromley in Kent—though not at all at Deal or Canterbury. The counsellors in the Court of King's Bench and Chancery in Westminster Hall, expected the building to fall, and in the new buildings about Grosvenor Square, people ran out of their houses, the chairs shaking, and the pewter rattling on the shelves.—In Southwark, a slaughter-house, with a hay-loft

over it was thrown down, as was a chimney in Leadenhall Street, another in Billiter Square, and several chimnies and part of a house near Horselydown. This earthquake was attended with a flat noise, but not very loud. The weather had been rainy and close for some days. That morning there had been a thick fog, and at the time of the shock the air was remarkably calm.

Thursday, March 8, 1749--50.—Between five and six in the morning, another earthquake was felt in London and Westminster, more violent, and attended with a greater noise than the former, the sound, as in many other places already mentioned, resembling a hollow distant thunder.—Just before the shock a ball of fire was seen in the air to the west of the city.—The shock (like that in 1580, and many others in England, as well as the great earthquake at Lima in 1687,) was of the vibratory kind.—People were shook in their beds with a violent motion, which with the noise of the earthquake and rattling of the windows, awoke almost all who were asleep, and in an instant, as far as it extended, filled every one with consternation.

A spring burst out in a cellar at the corner of Dean Street, Fetter Lane; and the next day the water was gone as remarkable as it came, and the floor left as dry as if no water had been there. Two stacks of chimnies, and part of a building in Bermondsey Street, were thrown down, and one stack of chimnies on Saffron Hill. At Islington, the bells at several gentlemen's doors rang, as if pulled by a sudden jerk.—It seemed to roll along from west to east, like a wave in a violent storm, and was sensibly felt as far as Epping in Essex, as also at Chiselhurst, Beckenham, and Croydon; at the two last places the hammers of the clocks struck against the bells.—It is asserted by many, that this was preceded by a small shock, at about two in the morning.

(To be continued.)

THE

THE following is an account of a most alarming accident to a boy on board the Ganges, on her passage to China:—"During our detention at Angar Point, on the coast of Java, on the 5th of May last, John Walker, boatswain's boy of the Ganges, aged 13, swimming alongside of the ship when at anchor, and at a few yards distance from our boat with three seamen in it, was discovered by a shark, who immediately approached him, and independent of the exertions of the boat's crew to intimidate the hungry monster, he laid hold of the unfortunate boy, by including in his mouth the whole of his right leg and more than half the thigh, pulling him beneath the water close alongside the ship, when upwards of 100 men were spectators of the scene, and kept him below for near two minutes, in which time he had tore off the leg and thigh to the extent above mentioned.—The boy once more made his appearance on the surface of the water, and the shark upon his back, with his jaws once more extended to make a finish of his prey, when a lad from the boat struck him with the boat-hook, and by the same instrument laid hold of the boy and brought him on board.—The boy had lost a vast deal of blood, the stump was dreadfully lacerated, and the bone splintered near an inch and a half, which required an amputation of the thigh close to the hip-joint.—Under all these untoward circumstances, the boy has recovered quite well within three months from the date of the operation.—The fleet, as it was an extraordinary case, have subscribed upwards of £280 for him."—*Bombay Courier, Feb.* 19.

SINGULAR METEOR.

Stones floating in the immense Space, &c.

AN English Gentleman, who is a prisoner at Fontainbleau, writes under date of the 15th July, as follows:—"I was bathing a few evenings since, with some Englishmen my fellow-

fellow-prisoners, when we saw a most beautiful and singular Meteor.—About half an hour after Sun-set, two balls appeared in the air above where the Sun had set, resembling the Sun in colour, size, and brightness.—They were about the height at which the Sun is two hours before its setting.—They lasted about ten minutes, moving almost imperceptibly towards the South, and giving an amazing light, when they gradually appeared to dissolve into fiery smoke, which reddened the atmosphere to a considerable distance round where they had been, for an hour afterwards. Some said this was a reflection of the Sun, but it could not be, as it had been set half an hour, and besides they would never have dissolved into smoke. Mr. Pigot, a celebrated astronomer here, with whom I was talking about it, says that these are the same class as those which we call falling Stars, which are large stones continually floating about in the immense space of Nature, when they come within 60 or 70 miles of the earth by which they are attracted, they fall to it. Several of these stones have been picked up in different parts of the world, and they have not been found to resemble any earthly substance."—Of the analysis of some of these stones, we spoke in page 180 of our IVth Number.

PARTICULAR WARNINGS BEFORE DEATH.

"Mr. Editor,—Observing in Numbers V. and VI. of your *Entertaining Museum*, a list of Extraordinary Deaths by your attentive Correspondent A, reminded me of some particular Warnings some persons have had of the death of some of their family, as the following will appear. I could produce several more instances of the like nature, but I rather wave being prolix on this head, least I should be charged with a ridiculous credulity, by those who disbelieve every thing of this kind, and only request you to insert the three following in your Work. The authenticity of which cannot be called in question, as they occurred to persons of respectability, whose veracity may be fully depended upon. If A, or any of your Correspondents has any thing of the following description to communicate, worthy of insertion in your *Museum*, by doing so, I have no doubt will prove entertaining to your numerous readers; and at the same time will much oblige, your humble servant, D. D. L.

[illegible], [illegible], 1790.

In 1727—8, in the month of February, at which time Langford Collin, Esq. lived at York, one night coming home, he immediately and very speedily undressed himself and went to bed to his lady, who being awake, he spoke to her, asking her concerning something he thought she could inform him of; but he had hardly exchanged six words, when he was surprised at a sudden knock given to the street-door, so loud, as if it had been with a great sledge-hammer, which made him as suddenly rise up out of his bed, and with a pair of pistols in his hand, he hasted across the landing-place to the dining-room, but before he could reach the door of it, he heard a second knock, full as loud as the first; at which impatient, and fearing it might injure his lady then pregnant, and near her time, he with all expedition did run to the window, during which a third knock was heard, not only by himself, but several of his family; but throwing the sash open, he saw nobody, neither at the door, nor on one side or other of the house, though it was clear moon-light, and nothing to obstruct his sight either way for a considerable space; still thinking it was done by some unlucky persons out of game or wantonness, he discovered next morning his uneasiness at such usage, at the coffee-house, declaring with some warmth, how highly he would resent it, could he come at the knowledge of that rude person who had been guilty of that ridiculous action: nor did he change his first opinion till the next post brought him a letter, which informed him of the death of his cousin, Thomas Smith, of Nottingham, Esq. who died at London, at the time the said knocking was heard.

About three years after that, the same gentleman sleeping up with his next brother, Mr. Abel Collin, heard from twelve o'clock at night till it struck one, a continual noise of driving nails into a coffin, in the workshop of John Baker,

Baker, a joiner, which abutted upon their yard; at this he was very much offended, as thinking it very unkind from an intimate acquaintance of the sick person, when soon after he heard a noise as if two or three men were landing a coffin in the room over his head, which made him suspect it to be a fore-runner of his brother's death, who departed this life exactly at one o'clock the next day.

From Plott's History of Oxfordshire.—As to what concerns death, I must add a relation as *strange* as it is *true*, of the family of Captain Wood, late of Pampton, now of Brise-Norton, Captain in the late wars of the King; some whereof before their deaths have had signal warning given them by a certain knocking, either at the door without, or tables and shelves within the house. The number of strokes, and distance between them, and the place where, for the most part, respecting the circumstances of the persons to die, or their deaths themselves, will be collected from the following circumstances and relation.—The first knocking that was observed, was about a year after the Restoration of the King; in the afternoon, a little before night, *at* or *upon* the door, it being then open, Mrs. Eleanor Wood, mother of the Captain, only heard it.—She was much disturbed, thinking it boded some ill to her or her's: fourteen days after she heard news of the death of her son-in-law, Mr. George Smith.

Three years after that, there were great knocks thrice given, very audibly to every person in the house, viz. to Mrs. Eleanor Wood, Mr. Basil Wood, and his wife, Mrs. Hester Wood, and some servants, which knocks were so remarkable, that one of the maids came from the well, which was about twenty yards from the place, to see what was the matter; and another maid saw three pans of lard shake and totter so upon a shelf in the milk-house, that she was like to fall down. Upon the violent knocking, Mr. Basil Wood and his wife being then in the hall, came presently

presently running into the milk-house to their mother, and finding her much disturbed, she replied, "God knew the matter—she could not tell but that she heard the knocking." Mr. Basil Wood concluded it must be for some of the family at home; and that upon the door for a friend abroad, which accordingly fell out: three of the family, according to the number of the knocks, dying within half a year after, viz. Mrs. Hester Wood, a child of Mr. Wood's sister, and Mrs. Eleanor Wood his mother.

AN UNFORTUNATE FAMILY.

In the month of June, in the present year, Mr. Isaac Evans, of Ashover, Derbyshire, was thrown from his horse, and received such injury as to occasion his death in a few hours.—One of his sons, some time back, unthinkingly placed the butt-end of a loaded gun between a wall and a tree, which went off instantly and killed him.—Another of his sons shooting rooks at Alfretton a few days preceding the death of his father, the gun burst, and so violently shattered his hand, that it was obliged to be immediately amputated, and he is now nearly recovered.—And about ten months since, his daughter (an infant) was scalded to death by falling into some hot liquor.

EXTRAORDINARY INSTANCE OF VEGETATION.

An extraordinary instance of vegetation in an esculant plant was observed on the morning of June 4th (of this present year,) at Holbeach.

During the preceding night, a mushroom in its growth, had completely rolled out of its place a pebble in the pavement, immediately before the house of Mr. J. Biggerdike, which weighed seven pounds and a quarter; the plant itself weighed twelve ounces, and the circumference of the stalk measured six inches and a quarter.

Last year mushrooms grew in Mr. Biggerdike's house with such strength as to become extremely troublesome, frequently raising the bricks from the floor; and the circumstance is the more extraordinary, as the oldest inhabitant does not remember any mushrooms to have grown near the spot, and the soil is not considered congenial to the plant.

Account of a THUNDER STORM *in* NORFOLK, *with Hail-stones, bearing the Figure of a human Eye.*

[From a Pamphlet printed in London, 1656.]

ON the 20th of July, being the Sabbath Day, about four of the clock in the afternoon, there was a great and sudden tempest in the city of Norwich, and the country thereabouts; the flashes of lightning were most dreadful and violent, and the loud claps from the clouds did so amaze and affright the people, that they thought the spheres came thundering down in flames about their ears. About an hour afterwards, there appeared to the view of many, a black cloud of smoke, like unto the smoke of a furnace, and ever and anon it did cast forth flames of fire; it was attended with a white cloud, which, sailing along the air, did seem to labour for all the advantages of the wind, to overtake the other; but, the black cloud being first come, and covering the face of the city, there arose a sudden whirlwind, which in the streets of the city did raise such a dust, that it was almost impossible for one man to discern another, but only at a little distance; and, to increase this wonderful darkness, the clouds grew thicker and thicker, especially at the south and south-west, when behold the lightning from them did leap forth again, and the thunder chid, and there followed such a rattling storm of stupendous hail, that being afterwards measured, the hail-stones were found to be five inches about, and some more; all the glass

glass windows that were on the weather-side of the city were beaten down.

Some letters from Norwich do affirm, that three thousand pounds will not repair the windows. This which I now speak, may in other countries seem incredible, and so it might in our own also, were it not to be attested by about ten thousand witnesses.—And surely it is well worth the observation of the best philosophers to take notice, that those hail-stones (as they exceeded all others in their bigness, so they were unlike them in their form), for many of them were mere pieces of flat ice, and had not the least similitude of roundness in them. It is to be admired besides, that in many of these hail-stones, there was to be seen the figure of an eye, resembling the eye of a man, and that so perfectly, as if it had been there engraved by the hand of some skilful artificer.

If your eyes, possessed with these unusual spectacles, have yet the leisure to look into the country, in hope there to behold some more comfortable objects, you will find in some places whole fields of corn destroyed by the lightning; you will behold the tempest wrestling with the trees, and having torn them up by the roots, to lay them on their backs with their heels higher than their heads; the burrows could not protect the listening conies, nor the trees the birds; but on the next morning the travellers found them dead in great numbers on the ground, and in some places a horse or a cow lying by them. The lightning whirled through the whole country, and passing through some houses where the windows were made one against the other, it was seen afterwards to run all along, and to lick the ground; many houses were fired by it, and had it not pleased God to send an extraordinary shower of rain, some towns that had taken fire, had been undoubtedly destroyed. It struck some men and women

dead for the present, whom it pleased God to recover again to life, to magnify his mercies, and to declare his wonders.

SURPRISING FACULTY OF SUSTAINING HEAT.

A Spaniard, who is now in Paris, has lately filled almost every mouth with a topic of conversation.—He is a young man, a native of Toledo in Spain, 23 years of age, and free of any apparent peculiarities which can announce any thing remarkable in the organization of the skin; after examination, one would be rather disposed to conclude a peculiar softness than that any hardness or thickness of the cuticle existed, either naturally or from mechanical causes. Nor was there any circumstance to indicate that the person had been previously rubbed with any matter capable of resisting the operation of the agents with which he was brought in contact.

This man bathed for the space of six minutes, and without any injury either to his sensibility or the surface of the skin, his legs in oil, heated at 97° of Reaumur, (250¼ deg. of Fahrenheit;) and with the same oil, at the same degree of heat, he washed his face and superior extremities.—He held for the same space of time, and with as little inconvenience, his legs in a solution of muriate of soda, heated to 102 of the same scale, (261½ Fahr.) He stood on and rubbed the soles of his feet with a bar of iron heated to a white heat; in this state he held the iron in his hands, and rubbed the surface of his tongue.

He gargled his mouth with concentrated sulphuric and nitric acids, without the smallest injury or discoloration; the nitrous acid changed the cuticle to a yellow colour; with the acids in this state he rubbed his hands and arms. All these experiments were continued long enough to prove their inefficiency to produce any impression. It is said on unquestion-

unquestionable authority, that he remained a considerable time in an oven heated to 65 or 70°, (178—189 Fahr.) and from which he was with difficulty induced to retire, so comfortable did he feel that high temperature.

It may be proper to remark, that this man seems totally uninfluenced by any motive to mislead, and, it is said, he has refused flattering offers from some religious sectaries of turning to emolument his singular qualities; yet, on the whole, it seems to be the opinion of most philosophical men, that this person must possess some matter which counteracts the operation of these agents. To suppose that nature has organized him differently, would be unphilosophic: by habit he might have blunted his sensibility against those impressions that create pain under ordinary circumstances; but how to explain the power by which he resists the action of those agents which are known to have the strongest affinity for animal matter, is a circumstance difficult to comprehend. It has not failed, however, to excite the wonder of the ignorant, and the inquiry of the learned at Paris.

A wonderful CURE *of* LAMENESS; *effected by* ANTS.

I WAS once, says the relator, well acquainted with the late Mrs. Jane Crabley, relict of Stephen Crabley, who officiated as parish-clerk of Sindermeer, from Aug. 1752, till the 10th of the same month, 1798; (and it is remarkable, that he was buried in a grave which he dug the week before his death, for Mr. Baddely, not knowing that Mr. B. was to be interred at Frebley near Sutton.) On the death of her husband, Jane, then 56 years of age, removed to Stancot, her native place; where she had no sooner settled herself, than she began to complain of a most torturing pain, and considerable enlargement of the patella (or knee-

pan),

pan), which she described as, and which her neighbours believed to be, a smart paroxysm of gout. Early in February 1799, the inflammation and pain entirely ceased; but the swelling continued, and rather increased; the joint of the knee from disuse, became perfectly stiff; and owing to the very particular size and form of her breast, no relief could be gained from the use of crutches. Free, however, from pain, the natural cheerfulness of her disposition returned, with its concomitant circumstance—a wish for constant society; and as her house stood in a particular retired lane, she was the more impatient of a confinement, that amounted to the most helpless state of lameness.—When the weather became tolerably mild, she was every morning, at her own earnest desire, carried in her chair to the gravel-pit by the side of the great road leading to Birmingham, where she could converse with the villagers as she sat knitting (her usual occupation), and be amused by the comparative cheerfulness of the scene.—And here it was that the remarkable circumstance I am about to relate took place. At the commencement of the hot weather, towards the end of May, the ants, or pismires, became so strangely troublesome to her, that she was sometimes obliged to avail herself of the help of travellers to assist her in changing her station. Still, however, they followed her, and seemed entirely attracted by her now useless knee. She was at first considerably annoyed by those troublesome insects; but, in a few days, she became not only reconciled to their intrusion, but was desirous of having her chair placed where she imagined them most to abound, even giving them freer access to her knee by turning down her stocking; for she told me, that "the cold numbness she suffered just round the patella, *was eased and relieved by their bite;* that it was even pleasurable:" and, strange to say, they bit her no where else. The skin

skin, which she described as having been deadly pale, now assumed a lively red colour; a clear and subtile liquid oozed from every puncture the ants had left; the swelling and stiffness of the joint gradually abated; and on the 25th evening of July, she walked home with the help of a stick, and before Winter, perfectly recovered the use of her limb.—She continued the full enjoyment of her health till this Spring, when she caught the measles, which, added to repeated attacks of influenza, carried her off the 16th day of June last past—1802.

BALLOON INTELLIGENCE IMPROVED;

Or new Anecdotes of the Ascension of Mr. ROBERTSON *and Mr.* LHOEST, *at Hamburgh, in July last.*

THIS account seems the most useful and truly scientific of any we have yet read. Mr. Robertson and his friend ascended to the height of 2600 toises, when the cold became so intense, as to compel them to descend, which they did near Winsen on the Luhe; but the inhabitants taking them for spectres, fled with the utmost consternation, carrying with them their cattle, &c.; and the aeronauts, fearful of being fired at, were obliged to reascend, and continued their voyage to Wichtenbeck, near Zell, having traversed over a space of 25 French leagues in five hours.

When the balloon rose, says Mr. Robertson, the barometer was at 28 inches. At eleven o'clock the machine, which had not been entirely filled, became so dilated, that the inflammable air issued with a loud noise from the lower tube. As this aperture was not sufficient, I was obliged to open the upper valve.—It remained open nearly a quarter of an hour, during which time the balloon ascended in a perpendicular direction: at intervals we threw out some ballast.—The atmosphere below us was serene, but above us, it was somewhat cloudy.

Although

Although we approached the sun, the heat decreased as we ascended, and we could look at that luminary without being dazzled. When the barometer was at 14 inches, it appeared to become stationary.—The thermometer was at 4½ degrees below Zero; the cold was not excessive, but the singing in my ears increased, and all our faculties seemed to be palsied by a general indisposition. Having taken some wine to recruit our strength, we threw out more ballast, the mercury in the barometer fell to 12¾ inches. At that height the cold out of the car was insupportable, although the thermometer was only one degree below the freezing point. We were obliged to respire faster, and our pulse beat with extreme rapidity.—We could scarcely resist the strong inclination to sleep with which we were seized. The blood rushed to our heads, and Mr. Lhoest remarked that it had entered my eyes; my head was so swelled that I could not put on my hat. In this region, where the balloon was invisible from the earth, Mr. Robertson made the following experiments:—

1. Having let a drop of ether fall on a piece of glass, it evaporated in four seconds; 2. He electrified by friction glass and sealing-wax. These substances gave no signs of electricity which could be communicated to other bodies. The voltaic pile, which, when the balloon was at rest from the earth, acted with its full force, gave only a tenth part of its electricity; 3. The dipping needle seemed to have lost its magnetic virtue, and could not be brought to that direction which it had at the surface of the earth; 4. He struck with a hammer oxygenated muriate of potash. The explosion occasioned a sharp noise, which, though not very strong, was insufferable to the ear. It is also to be observed, that though the aeronauts spoke very loud, they could with great difficulty hear each other; 5. At that height Mr. Robertson was not able to extract any electricity from the atmospheric electrometer and condensor; 6. In

consequence



MARY HONEYWOOD Aged 93,

who had 367 Descendants living the Year preceeding her Death

Publish'd Nov.r 30 1809 by R. S. Kaigh Grenden Heath Yard N.r Scott Lane Strand.

consequence of a suggestion from Professor Hermbstadt, of Berlin, Mr. Robertson carried with him two birds; the rarefaction of the air killed one of them; the other was not able to fly; it lay extended on its back, but fluttered with its wings; 7. Water began to boil by means of a moderate degree of heat maintained with quicklime; 8. According to observations made, it appears that the clouds never rise above 2000 toises, and it was only in ascending and descending through clouds that Mr. Robertson was able to obtain positive electricity.

An Account *of* Mrs. Mary Honywood, *who left behind her* 367 *lawful Descendants.*

[With her Portrait.]

This lady, who was one of the ancestors of the present Honywood family, in Kent, was born at Lenham in that county, about the year 1533, and was united by marriage very early in life to Robert Honywood, Esq. of Charing, in the same county, who was her only husband.—She was a widow 44 years; but notwithstanding that, at her decease, in the 93d year of her age, on the 18th of May, in 1620, though she bore only 16 children, in her own person had then lawfully descended from her, 114 grand children; that is to say, 228 in the third generation, and 9 in the fourth; making in the whole 367. Her long life and health was in a great measure accounted for, by the even and Christian temper of her life, not being reckoned a restless or censorious fanatic, but a truly pious, resigned, and charitable Christian.—Her long course of life and widowhood, she at length finished, not where she began it, but at Markeshall, in the county of Essex, the dwelling of one of those numerous relatives before mentioned, then wanting less than seven of a hundred years of age.—Her maiden name was Mary Waters, and her eldest son, Sir Robert Honywood, after her decease, caused a monument to be erected to her memory, at Markeshall Church, in the county of Essex aforesaid.

The ORIGIN *of the* FEMALES *exposing their* BOSOMS.

WHEN the Sicambrii, a clan in France, began to retire and fly from the field of battle, their women met them, uncovered their bosoms, and said, "Strike there, ye cowards! we wish that you would slay us, rather than expose us to the disgrace attendant on slavery!" This behaviour, and their reproaches, raised the courage of the Sicambrii, and alarmed their pride: they rallied, returned to the charge, repulsed and entirely defeated the enemy. In commemoration of the share their women had in the honour of that day, they were permitted to let their bosoms remain bare; and thus this fashion, which still prevails, owed its origin to the undaunted behaviour of their females on that occasion.

So far respecting a stimulus to courage, from the sudden, and almost never-failing presence of mind, inherent in the fair sex in all ages, the good effects of it were here most sensibly felt; and had our females of the present day, waited the dreadful period of a defeat from an implacable enemy, they would then have done well, in imitating this conduct of the Sicambrian women.—But imitating them prematurely, and without a cause, in the exposure of what modesty should conceal, has left us almost destitute of any hope to be derived from their assistance in the hour of extremity.

DREADFUL EFFECTS OF FAMINE.

DURING the siege of Paris in 1690, after the inhabitants had eaten the *straw* of their beds, old hides, &c. they took up the bones from the church-yards, ground them, and eat them. Upwards of 1000 persons died of famine, but when a search was made in the different religious houses, flour, biscuit, salt meat, and other provisions were found, sufficient to support these priests eight months, procured by begging and intrigue.—Yet the priests during this siege, would

would daily impose on mankind, by false intelligence and vain hopes; the same time they were meeting at every step, infants expiring on the breasts of their famished mothers.—That these men should be thus insensible, is the highest pitch of the most atrocious barbarity.

The Duke de Nemours, during this siege, going to visit some posts towards St. Michael's gate, met a man, who said in a fright, "*Sir, dont go in that street, I am just come from there—it is full of serpents; I saw a woman there, half dead, whose neck and hands were all twined round with them.*" The Duke sent some of his attendants, who hastily returned and confirmed the account given him.

RICHARD JOY; THE STRONG MAN OF KENT.

[*Communicated by J----s R----n.*]

THIS remarkable person was born May 2, 1675, at St. Lawrence, a small village, one mile from Ramsgate; and died May 18, 1742, aged 67 years; and lies buried in St. Peter's church-yard, on the south-side of the church, twelve miles from Margate.

During the reign of William the Third, he enjoyed such an extraordinary reputation for his uncommon feats of strength, that he obtained the name of the English Sampson; and his reputation was so much increased in 1699, that his portrait was engraved, together with a representation of several of his amazing performances; among which are his pulling against a strong horse, breaking a rope capable of holding 35 cwt., and lifting to the amount of 2,200 lbs.

STRANGE SUBSTANCES FOUND IN THE HUMAN BODY.

AMONG the wonders of nature, of which it is still very difficult to give any satisfactory account, these will be found not the least. We have, therefore, collected several, as deserving a place in this *Scientific Museum*.

In February 1802, a child of Jonathan and Elizabeth White, living at Mrs. Holden's, in the West Pallant, Chichester, having the care of its infant suckling brother, aged six months, whilst in the cradle, put to its mouth a two-bladed knife, with a horn or bone handle (for the present appearance of the evacuated fragments do not warrant either conclusion), which the infant swallowed with some pain, but with no consequent dangerous symptoms.—It does not appear that medical assistance took place, but only that castor-oil was recommended and given, also poppy-water by the mother, as a narcotic.—The infant's linen soon assumed the appearance of iron-mould, and on May 24, (three months after the accident) the shortest blade was evacuated in a very corroded and diminished state; and on June 16, one half or side of the handle was cast up in a doubled, but not softened state, which, upon attempting to straiten, was broken in two at the rivet-holes; a piece of iron was at the same time cast up, (probably the living iron) much corroded. Nothing more appeared until Sunday July 25, when one of the blades came away, corroded but not diminished.—Fourthly, on Wednesday the 11th instant, the iron back-piece was cast up, in a less corroded or diminished state than the others; this measured near three inches and a half, and is at one end as pointed as a common packing-needle.—The whole instrument thus appears to have come away at the above four times, except the rivets, which, it is presumed, are either become dissolved or escaped inspection.—The chalybeate property has not only shewn itself upon the infant's linen, but even wood which the faces have touched, has ineffaceably received the iron-mould stain. The child is described as having suffered much pain, particularly near the times of the several voidings taking place.—It has rather an [illegible] appearance, and has much loathed its food.—It [illegible] day since the accident, but is now

now more at the breast, and there is every reason to expect its full recovery. The above principal points are from the notes of a practitioner, who has occasionally (only) seen the infant, and who is in possession of some of the above extraordinary vestiges; the mother keeping the remainder. The knife must have been full three inches long, and was of the sort attached to pocket-books.

On the 1st of July 1720, a country-woman of Tornin (a village within the bishopric of Warmia), aged about 47 years, felt herself incommoded at her stomach; and was desirous of exciting vomition by means of the handle of a knife, which she introduced into her throat.—Unfortunately she introduced it too far.—The blade slipped out of her hand, the knife fell into her throat. Her efforts to withdraw only increased the evil. Three days, however, went by, before she suffered any pain: on the fourth she began to feel pain near her navel, and soon after the point of the knife hurt her right side. The evil increasing day by day, her husband carried her on the 10th of July to Rastenbourgh, where she was put into the hands of an able surgeon, and of Hubner, a physician.

At first, these practitioners distinguished the point of the knife which appeared to be four fingers to the right of the navel, and at two fingers above it, where it caused a little red tumour. The first application was that of a cataplasm of emollient herbs, which they renewed the next day.

At this period, remarking that a quantity of pus had accumulated under the tumour, they resolved to make an incision without delay; and accordingly prepared the patient by cordials; and, by the application of a plaster into the composition of which there entered powdered loadstone: but Hubner, who had little confidence in the magnetic virtue of this plaster, employed the loadstone in mass when he approached the tumour. Immediately, as was remarked by all the assistants, the skin became distended,

tended, the point of the knife making an effort to approach the loadstone, and the pain of the patient consequently increased. At length, after having bound her to a plank, in a standing posture, they proceeded to the incision, which Hubner chose to perform himself. He began by making a little opening in the skin and muscles. Afterwards, more distinctly perceiving the point of the knife, he enlarged the opening, and extended it to the peritoneum.—There issued about a spoonful of pus, mingled with blood; and, at the same time, appeared the blade of the knife, which was extracted with forceps. The operation took about the time, says the author, of saying the *Lord's Prayer*. The incision was closed and properly dressed.

With regard to the stomach of the patient, which the knife had pierced, no other precaution was taken than that of ordering a very strict regimen, which, for the first day, consisted in a decoction of vulnerary herbs and two lumps of balsamic sugar. On the 24th of July, the wound being entirely healed, and the patient judging herself sufficiently restored, she was sent back to her village. On the 2d of August, she was visited by Hubner, who found her, not only in good spirits and health, but strong enough to carry two pails of water.—The motion of the carriage had done her harm. On her arrival she had been obliged to take to her bed; but she had almost immediately recovered herself. The knife which had been extracted from her, she assured him was seven inches in length. The stay it had made in her stomach had in no degree injured the blade, which had only become black. Before the making of the incision, the patient had frequent eructations, the taste of which resembled that of hartshorn, of which substance the handle was made. This narrative demonstrates that we must not wholly believe the aphorism of Hippocrates; asserting, that "It is mortal to be pierced in the bladder, the brain, the heart, the diaphragm, certain of the lesser intestines, or the liver."

A full

A full and authentic ACCOUNT *of the strange and mysterious Affair between* MARY SQUIRES, *a* GIPSY, *and* ELIZABETH CANNING; *who swore she was robbed and confined by the Gipsy till she was almost starved; for which the Gipsy received sentence of Death, but was afterwards pardoned by his Majesty George II.*

With a particular Account of both the Trials, and various Papers, and Persons who interested themselves in that popular Event.

IT is not less strange than true, though during the years 1753 and 1754, the press literally groaned with publications for and against the then celebrated Elizabeth Canning; and notwithstanding almost every person, public or private, was interested in her behalf, and took every opportunity of declaring their sentiments upon her affairs. Yet, at the present period, there is no possibility of procuring the various publications concerning it, under a most enormous price; and after all, these publications are so uncommonly scarce, and out of print, as hardly to be met with, at any price whatever.

To rescue articles thus scarce and valuable from oblivion, especially when they refer to any remarkable Characters, ancient or modern, has, and ever will be, the particular province of KIRBY'S MUSEUM; we therefore flatter ourselves, that our readers will find a singular gratification in being now made acquainted with the particulars of a case, which after puzzling the wisest heads in the nation for some years, still remains a mystery, as it were in defiance of all the zeal, the labour and ability bestowed upon its investigation.

What we have hinted about zeal, and a strong party-spirit in this affair of Elizabeth Canning, can be well attested by many aged persons still living.—Besides, the whole series of the British History does not afford but two solitary instances of an insult put upon a Judge or supreme Magistrate; of which that of the enraged populace in favour of Betty Canning, is one; Sir Crisp Gascoigne * being then assaulted on his way to the Old Bailey, and the other, is the striking of Chief Justice Gascoigne, his namesake, while upon the Bench, by Henry V., then Prince of Wales. Party-spirit, however, did not rest there, private families were divided as the people then termed it into *Canaanites* and *Egyptians*; and it was then as common for them to ask one another "who they were for," as it was afterwards to ask a similar question about *Wilkes and Liberty!*

The popularity of Canning at this time was also increased by Oratory Henley's taking the matter up, at his Oratory near Newport Market, where he loaded her adversaries with all the invectives his genius and volubility supplied him with. Her enemies, and consequently the friends of the Gipsy, in-

* In this instance the mob proceeded to the most violent outrage, as they broke his Lordship's coach windows, and even threatened his life.

creased,

creased after the first trial; and in consequence of the enquiries laid before the King, he referred the whole to the Attorney and Solicitor-General, Sir Dudley Rider and the late Earl Mansfield, then William Murray, Esq.; who, owning that the weight of evidence was in favour of the Gipsy, she received a free pardon. It now being Elizabeth Canning's turn to be prosecuted, she was brought to the bar of the Old Bailey, May 1, 175?, and charged with wilful and corrupt perjury. The trial lasted seven days; when the *alibi* or *absence* of Mary Squires being proved, by one of the most extraordinary chains of evidence ever produced, Canning was found guilty, and sentenced to seven years transportation. Dr. Hill wrote first in her favour—Harry Fielding on the contrary; and even Allan Ramsay in Scotland, is said to have engaged in the controversy, under a fictious name. In fine, 36 pamphlets, &c. were published *pro* and *con*, and Canning ended her life in America: where, it is said, she married a planter of opulence, and a Quaker by profession.

We now proceed to the narrative; Elizabeth Canning was, as she swore, forcibly seized upon in the evening of the 1st of January 1753; and as she further said, by two men, who met with her in the quarters of Moorfields, about ten o'clock, nearly opposite Bethlehem Gate; who, after robbing her of half a guinea in gold and three shillings in silver, of her hat, gown and apron, violently dragged her into a gravel-walk that leads down to the gate of Bethlehem Hospital; about the middle of which, one of the men, after threatening to do for her, gave her a violent blow with his fist on the right temple, that threw her into a fit, and entirely deprived her of her senses.—These fits, she says, she hath been accustomed to; that they were first occasioned by the fall of a cieling on her head; that they are apt to return upon her whenever she is frightened, and that they sometimes continue for six or seven hours; that when she came to herself, she perceived that two men were hurrying her along in a large road-way, and that in a little time after she was recovered, she was able to walk alone; however, they still continued to pull and drag her along; that she was so intimidated by their usage, that she durst not call out, nor even speak to them; that



ELIZABETH CANNING Aged 19.
the remarkable Quaker
Convicted of Perjury, May 8th 1754.

Publish'd Sept. 30th 1793 by R.S. Kirby, London House Yard & I Scott 14 Ivy Lane.

that in about half an hour after the recovery of her senses, they carried her into an house, where she saw in the kitchen an old gipsy woman and two young women; that the old gipsy woman took hold of her by the hand, and promised to give her fine clothes if she would go their way; which expression she understanding to mean the becoming a prostitute, she utterly refused to comply with; upon which the old gipsy woman took a knife out of a drawer, and cut the stays off this Elizabeth Canning, and took them away from her, at which time one of the men likewise took off her cap, and then both the men went away; that soon after they were gone, and about an hour after she had been in the house, the old gipsy woman forced her up an old pair of stairs, and pushed her into a back room like a hay-loft, without any furniture whatsoever in the same, and there locked her up, threatening that if she made the least noise or disturbance, the old gipsy woman would come up and cut her throat, and then fastened the door on the outside and went away.—She says, that when it was day-light, upon her looking round to see in what dismal place she was confined, she discovered a large black jug, with the neck much broken, filled with water, and several pieces of bread, amounting to about the quantity of a quartern loaf, scattered on the floor, where was likewise a small parcel of hay. In this room she says she continued from that time till about half an hour after four of the clock in the afternoon of Monday the 29th day of the same month of January, being in all 27 days and upwards, without any other sustenance than the aforesaid bread and water, except one small minced pye which she had in her pocket, which she was carrying home as a present to her little brother.—She likewise says, that she had some part of this provision remaining on the Friday before she made her escape, which she did by breaking out at a window of the room or loft in which she was confined, and whence hav-

ing escaped, she got back to her friends in London, in about six hours, in a most weak and miserable condition, being almost starved to death, and without ever once stopping at any house or place by the way.—She likewise says, that during her whole confinement no person ever came near her to ask her any question whatever, nor did she see any belonging to the house more than once, when one of the women peeped through a hole in the door, and that she herself was afraid to call or speak to any one.

It is remarkable, that on the 6th of January 1753, the following advertisement appeared in the *Daily Advertiser*; viz.—"Whereas Elizabeth Canning went from her friends between Hounsditch and Bishopsgate, on Monday last, the 1st instant, between nine and ten o'clock:—Whoever can give any account where she is, shall have Two Guineas Reward, to be paid by Mrs. Canning, a Sawyer, in Aldermanbury Postern; which will be a great satisfaction to her mother.—She is fresh-coloured, pitted with the small-pox, has a high forehead, light eye-brows, about five feet high, eighteen years of age, well-set, had on a masquerade purple stuff gown, a black petticoat, a white chip hat, bound round with green, a white apron and handkerchief, blue stockings, and leather shoes.

"*Note*, It is supposed she was forcibly taken away by some evil-disposed person, as she was heard to shriek out in a hackney-coach in Bishopsgate-street.—If the coachman remembers any thing of the affair, by giving an account as above, he shall be handsomely rewarded for his trouble."

Upon this advertisement, Dr. Hill, a writer on the side of the gipsy, thus remarks:—"Why supposed to be taken forcibly away?—Are these transactions common? or was there any thing in the present case to authorise such an imagination?—To what purpose should she be forced away?—She is not handsome; so that the design could

not

not be upon her person; and certainly the dress that is described so largely, could not tempt any one to carry her off to rob her; nor was it necessary, for that might have been done where she was seized; nay, and in the latter accounts we are told it was done there.

"Who heard her shriek? or what is become of the hackney-coach part of the story; no syllable has been since uttered of it. Who should know the voice of a servant of no consideration, calling in a strange part of the town from a coach?—What must the ruffians have been doing; who suffered her to shriek; or who that heard such a voice, and did, or that did not know the person, would not have stopped the carriage?—How came he, who heard so much, not to call persons to assist him?—There are enough in the streets at ten o'clock; or, where's the coachman? for coaches do not drive themselves, and certainly he might be found to justify the story.

"If a coach carried her, where therefore is the driver of it? or, if she was dragged along, how did the people, who were taking all this pains, and running all this hazard, to no sort of purpose, get her undiscovered through the turnpikes?" And he supposes that this was a preparative for all that followed, and inserted on purpose to prepare the public to receive her story. But some of these particulars in the advertisement were accounted for on the late trial.

However this was, Elizabeth Canning, the mother, having a very good character, and being well esteemed in the neighbourhood where she has lived for many years, and the girl having always bore a good reputation, and being no more than eighteen, the neighbours interested themselves greatly in the poor woman's misfortune, and promised to contribute to a larger reward for the discovery of the girl, which was accordingly advertised, and every other method that could be thought of, put in practice, but without gaining the least intelligence of what was be-

come of the girl. No place was left unsearched by the afflicted mother; even gaols and hospitals were not omitted, lest peradventure some mistake or accident might have brought her daughter into one or other of them; but all in vain, and week after week rolled on in this miserable state of suspense, without the least news of the girl, till the 29th day of January, when she returned to her mother's house about ten o'clock at night, in a most frightful and miserable condition, and gave the account we have just stated.

We now proceed to relate what followed the girl's coming home. Her absence had made so much noise, and appeared so unaccountable, that as soon as the news of her being returned was known, a great many people went to her mother's house to see and talk with her; but her weak condition would not permit her to answer a great many questions. In answer to the general enquiry, if she could not tell where she had been, she answered that it was somewhere upon the Hertford Road, because she had seen the coachman who used to carry her mistress to Hertford, go by, and that she had once heard the name of Wills or Wells mentioned in the house:—Upon this some of those who came to see her, said, "It must certainly be Mother Wells, at Enfield Wash, a house of very ill-fame." This appearing probable to her friends, and the rest of the company who were present, it was determined that the girl, though in a most weak condition, should go before the sitting alderman, and make affidavit of the affair, in order to obtain a warrant for the apprehending of Mother Wells. Accordingly, on the 31st of January, the girl was carried before him, and her deposition taken; in which she declared, the room she was confined in was a darkish little square room; that she lay upon the boards, that there was nothing in the room except a grate with a gown in it, and that there was a picture over the chimney.

This

This account differing in some circumstances from what she deposed afterwards, and from what the room was found to be, (especially in regard to the dimensions, it being 30 feet long, and only 9 broad; and in respect to her lying on the boards, for she had said at first that there was hay in the room, and has deposed the same on oath since,) has been strongly alledged against her, as a proof of her whole story being false:—But on the other side it is said, that as the girl was extremely faint and weak at the time of this examination, as there was a great number of persons present, so that even the alderman himself owned on the late trial, that he did not know how Mother Wells's name came to be put down in the warrant he signed for apprehending her, as being the person who had cut Canning's stays off, he not remembering that the girl ever mentioned her name; considering all these circumstances, those persons that espouse her cause say, that the difference which was in her deposition at this time, might probably arise from the mistake of the clerk, who took it amidst the talk of so many persons. A warrant being granted by the alderman, it was resolved that the girl should be carried down in a coach the next day, and several of her friends agreed to accompany her on horseback; among which were Mr. Lyon, her master whom she lived with, Mr. Wintlebury, with whom she had lived before, Mr. Nash, Mr. Hage, Mr. Aldrich, Mr. Adamson, Mr. Skerret, Mrs. Woodward, and several others of her neighbours and acquaintance. When they came down, the girl was first carried out of the coach in a man's arms into the kitchen of Mother Wells's house, and set on the dresser, where she seemed very faint and ill; upon which her master, Lyon, bid her not be frightened, for she was among friends, but at the same time charged her to be sure not to swear any thing rashly, but to be quite certain before she fixed upon any one. She was then carried into the parlour, were

Mother

Mother Wells the gipsy, her son and daughter, Vertue Hall and Judith Natus, were under the care of an officer, who had apprehended them early in the morning. As soon as she was brought into the room, the girl pitched upon the gipsy as the person who had cut her stays off, and said that Lucy Squires and Vertue Hall stood by; as to Mother Wells, she said that she did not know she had ever seen her before, and she could not say any thing as to George Squires; however, they were all put in a cart together, and carried before Justice Tyshemaker. Before they came hither, George Squires, the gipsy's son, having got his great coat on, the girl, as soon as she saw him before the Justice, said he then looked much more like one of the men who had robbed her in Moorfields; however, she would not swear against him, so that the justice discharged him and the rest, except the gipsy and Mother Wells, one of whom he committed to prison, as being swore against by the girl for robbing her of her stays, and the other for keeping a disorderly house.

But before the sessions came on, that they were to take their trial at, the friends of Canning thought they should be able to go more to the bottom of the affair, by apprehending Vertue Hall, who was a servant in Mother Wells's house; they therefore applied to Justice Fielding, who, upon Canning's making an information upon oath before him, granted a warrant for apprehending Vertue Hall.

It will be seen that there was some disagreement between this information of Canning's, sworn before Justice Fielding, with that made before the alderman, and likewise with what she deposed on the trial of the gipsy, which was one of the main foundations of the indictment brought against her for wilful and corrupt perjury.

Vertue Hall, who first became a witness in her favour, and afterwards wished to recant, also deposed before Justice Fielding, that on Tuesday the 2d day of January last past,

past, about four of the clock in the morning, a young woman, whose name she since heard is Elizabeth Canning, was brought (without any gown, hat or apron on,) to the house of one Susannah Wells, of Enfield Wash, widow, by two men, the name of one of whom is John Squires, the reputed son of one Mary Squires, an old gipsy woman, who then, and some little time before, had lodged at the house of the said Susannah Wells, but the name of the other of the said two men, she knows not, never having seen him before or since to the best of her knowledge.—When Elizabeth Canning was brought into the kitchen of the said Wells's house, there were present the said Mary Squires, John Squires, the man unknown, Katharine Squires, the reputed daughter of the said Mary Squires, and herself, and she does not recollect that any one else was in the said kitchen at that time.—That immediately upon Elizabeth Canning being brought in, John Squires said, "Here, Mother, take this girl;" words to that effect: and Mary Squires asked him where they had brought her from; John said from Moorfields, and told his said mother that they had taken her gown, apron, hat, and half a guinea from her.—Whereupon Mary Squires took hold of Elizabeth Canning's hand, and asked her if she would go their way, or words to that effect; and upon her answering no, Mary Squires took a knife out of the drawer of the dresser in the kitchen, and cut the lace of Elizabeth Canning's stays, took them from her, and hung them on the back of a chair, and the said man unknown, took the cap off Canning's head, and then with John Squires, went out of doors with it.—Quickly after they were gone, Mary Squires pushed Elizabeth Canning along the kitchen, towards and up a pair of stairs leading into a large back-room, like a hayloft, called the workshop, where there was some hay; and whilst she was so pushing her towards the stairs, Susannah Wells came into the kitchen, and asked

asked what she was going to push the girl up stairs for? Mary Squires answered, "What is it to you?—You have no business with her." About two hours after, a quantity of water in an old broken-mouthed large black jug, was carried up the said stairs, and put down upon the floor; and soon after Elizabeth Canning was so put into the said workshop; John Squires returned again into the kitchen, and took the stays from off the chairs, and went away with the same, and in about an hour's time returned, and went into the parlour with the said Susannah Wells; who said to her, "Vertue, the gipsy man has been telling me that his mother had cut the girl's (meaning the said Elizabeth Canning's) stays off her back;" and further said, "I desire you will not make a clack of it, for fear it should be blown." And from the time of Elizabeth Canning being so confined in the morning of the said second day of January, in manner as aforesaid, she was not missed, or discovered to have escaped, until Wednesday the 31st day of the same month of January, as she verily believes; that to the best of her recollection and belief, she was the person that first missed Elizabeth Canning thereout. And the said Susannah Wells harboured and continued Mary Squires in her aforesaid house, from the time of Mary Squires robbing Elizabeth Canning of her stays, until Thursday the 1st day of February last past, when Susannah Wells, Sarah her daughter, Mary Squires, John Squires, his two sisters Katharine and Mary Squires, Fortune Natus, and Sarah his wife, and this informant, were apprehended, and carried before Justice Tyshemaker.—And that Fortune Natus, and Sarah his wife, to the best of her belief, have lodged in the house of Susannah Wells about eleven weeks next before Monday the 5th day of February instant, and continued lying there until Thursday; when all, except Susannah Wells and Mary Squires, were discharged, and then that evening,

the

the said Fortune Natus and Sarah his wife, laid up in the said workshop where the said Elizabeth Canning had been confined: so that as this informant understood, it might be pretended that they had lain in the said workshop for all the time they had lodged in the said Susannah Wells's house, &c. &c.

The next day an advertisement appeared in the newspapers, offering a reward of ten pounds for taking of John Squires, the gipsy son, and ten pounds for taking his accomplice. Nothing very material happened in the affair after this, (except that the gipsy engaged an attorney to undertake her cause, and subpœna several witnesses in her behalf) till the sessions at the Old Bailey, which began on Wednesday the 21st of February 1753, where the gipsy and Mother Wells were indicted. What passed there, according to the sessions paper, was as follows, the substance of which was read in Court at the late trial:

"Mary Squires, widow, and Susannah Wells, were indicted; the first, for that she, on the 2d day of January, in the dwelling-house of Susannah Wells, widow, on Elizabeth Canning, spinster, did make an assault, putting her, the said Elizabeth Canning, in corporeal fear and danger of her life, one pair of stays, value 10*s.* the property of the said Elizabeth, from her person in the dwelling-house did steal, take, and carry away.

"And the latter, for that she, well knowing that she, the said Mary Squires, to have done and committed the said felony aforesaid on the 2d of January, her the said Mary did then and there feloniously receive, harbour, comfort, conceal, and maintain, against his Majesty's peace, and against the form of the statute."

Elizabeth Canning. I had been to Saltpetre Bank to see an uncle and aunt; his name is Thomas Colley: I set out from home about two in the afternoon, and staid there till about nine at night on the 1st of January; then my

uncle and aunt came with me as far as Aldgate, where we parted; I was then alone, so came down Hounsditch and over Moorfields by Bedlam Wall; there two lusty men, both in great coats, laid hold of me, one on each side; they said nothing to me at first, but took half a guinea in a little box out of my pocket, and three shillings that were loose.—Q. Which man took that?—E. Canning. The man on my right hand: they took my gown, apron, and hat, and folded them up and put them into a great coat pocket. I screamed out; then the man that took my gown put a handkerchief, or some such thing, to my mouth.—Q. Were there any persons walking near you at that time?—E. Canning. I saw nobody: they then tied my hands behind me; after which one of them gave me a blow on the temple, and said, *D—n you, you b—h, we will do for you by and by.* I having been subject to convulsion fits these four years, this blow stunned me, and threw me directly into a fit.—Q. Are these fits attended with a struggling?—E. Canning. I don't know that.—Q. What happened afterwards?—E. Canning. The first thing that I remember after this was, I found myself by a large road, where was water, with the two men that robbed me.—Q. Had you any discourse with them?—E. Canning. I had none; they took me to the prisoner Wells's house.—Q. About what time do you think it might be?—E. Canning. As near as I can think, it was about four o'clock in the morning; I had recovered from my fit about half an hour before I came to the house. They lugged me along, and said, *You b—h, why don't you walk faster?* One had hold of my right arm, and the other on the left, and so pulled me along.—Q. Can you form any judgment in what manner you was conveyed to the place before you recovered of your fit?—E. Canning. I think they dragged me along by my petticoats, they being so dirty.—Q. When you came to Wells's house, was it day-light?—E. Canning.

ning. No, it was not; I think it was day-light in about three hours, or better, after I was there, which is the reason I believe I was carried in about four o'clock.—— Q. When you was carried in, what did you see there?—E. Canning. I saw the gipsy woman Squires, who was sitting in a chair, and two young women in the same room; Vertue Hall, the evidence, was one: they were standing against a dresser.—Q. Did you see the prisoner Wells there?—E. Canning. No, I did not. As soon as I was brought in, Mary Squires took me by the hand, and asked me if I chose to go their way, saying, if I did, I should have clothes; I said no.—Q. Did she explain to you what she meant by going their way?—E. Canning. No, sir: then she went and took a knife out of a dresser drawer, and cut the lace off my stays, and took them from me.—Q. Had you, at that time, any apprehensions of danger?—E. Canning. I thought she was going to cut my throat, when I saw her take the knife.—Q. Did you see the prisoner Wells at that time?—E. Canning. No, I did not.—Q. Was any thing else taken from you?—E. Canning. There was not then, but Squires looked at my petticoat, and said, *Here, you b—h, you may keep that*, or, *I'll give you that, it is not worth much;* and gave me a slap on the face.—Q. Had she the petticoat in her hand?—E. Canning. No, it was on me; after that she pushed me up stairs from out of the kitchen where we were.—Q. Describe the kitchen?—E. Canning. The kitchen was at the right hand going in at the door, and the stairs are near the fire.—Q. How many steps to them?—E. Canning. There are four or five of them.—Q. What did they call the name of the place where they put you in?—E. Canning. They call it the hayloft: the room door was shut as soon as I was put in.—Q. Was it fastened?—E. Canning. I don't know that; it was at the bottom of the stairs in the kitchen. After she shut the door, she said, if ever she heard me stir

or move, or any such thing, she'd cut my throat.—Q. Did you see any thing brought up to eat or drink?—E. Canning. I saw nothing brought up: when day-light appeared, I could see about the room; there was a fire-place and a grate in it, no bed or bedstead, nothing but hay to lie upon; there was a black pitcher, not quite full of water, and about 24 pieces of bread, (a pitcher produced in Court,) this is the pitcher, which was full to near the neck.—Q. How much in quantity do you think these 24 pieces of bread might be?—E. Canning. I believe about a quartern loaf.—Q. Had you nothing else to subsist on?—E. Canning. I had in my pocket a penny minced pye, which I bought that day to carry home to my brother.—Q. How long did you continue in that room?—E. Canning. A month by the weeks, all but a few hours.—Q. What do you mean by a month by the weeks?—E. Canning. I mean a four weeks month.—Q. Did any body come to you in the room during that time?—E. Canning. No, sir, nobody at all. On the Wednesday before I came away, I saw somebody look through the crack of the door, but don't know who it was.—Q. Did you, during the time you was in this confinement, make any attempts to come down stairs, or make your escape?—E. Canning. No, sir, I did not till the time I got out.—Q. Had you any thing to subsist on during the time, besides the pieces of bread, penny pye, and pitcher of water?—E. Canning. No, I had not.—Q. At what time did you get out?—E. Canning. I got out about four o'clock in the afternoon on a Monday, after I had been confined there four weeks, all but a few hours.—How did you get out?—E. Canning. I broke down a board that was nailed up at the inside of a window, and got out there.—Q. How high was the window from the ground?—E. Canning. (She described it by the height of a place in the sessions-house, which was about eight or ten feet high.) First I got my head out, and kept

kept fast hold by the wall and got my body out; after that I turned myself round and jumped into a little narrow place by a lane with a field behind it.—Q. Did not the jump hurt you?—E. Canning. No, it was soft clay ground.—Q. Was it light then?—E. Canning. It was.—Q. What did you do for clothing?—E. Canning. I took an old sort of a bed-gown and a handkerchief that were in this hayloft, and lay in a grate in the chimney (produced in Court). I made my ear bleed at getting out; the handkerchief I tied over my head instead of a cap, it was very bloody.—Q. Did you see any body when you jumped out at the window?—E. Canning. No, nobody at all; then I went on the backside the house up a lane, and crossed a little brook, and over two fields, as I think, but I did not take notice how many fields; the path-way brought me by the road-side: then I went by the road strait to London.—Q. Did you know the way?—E. Canning. I did not.—Q. Did you call at any house?—E. Canning. No, I did not; it struck ten o'clock just as I came over Moorfields. I got home about a quarter after to my mother's house in Aldermanbury.—Q. Did you acquaint any body with your misfortune coming along?—E. Canning. No, I did not.—Q. Who did you meet with first?—E. Canning. I met with the apprentice first; then I saw my mother and the children: she went into a fit directly.—Q. Did you give an account to any body how you had been treated?—E. Canning. Yes, I did to Mrs. Woodward, who came to see me, that I had lived on bread and water. She was so affrighted, she could not ask me many questions then. Then Mr. Wintlebury came in, with whom I lived servant before I went to live with Mr. Lyon; he took me by the hand, and asked me where I had been; I said, sir, in the Hertfordshire Road; he said Bet, how do you know that? I said, because I saw my mistress's coachman go by, which she used to go in into the country into

into Hertfordshire, (that was Mrs. Wintlebury,) I knew the coach, because I used to carry things to it, and fetch them back again.—Q. Was you asked any questions about the room or jug that night, and what you had to subsist on?—E. Canning. Yes, there were many people came in, and I told them I had a jug which was not quite full of water; they asked me how much, and I said, I believe, better than a gallon of it; they asked me also how I got out, and I said I broke out of the window, and had torn my ear in getting out, which bled all the way coming home.—Q. What things did you observe in this hayloft?—E. Canning. There was a barrel, a saddle, a bason, and a tobacco mould.—Q. What do you mean by a tobacco mould?—E. Canning. I mean such a thing that they do up pennyworths of tobacco with.

CROSS EXAMINATION.

Q. How long might these two men continue with you in Moorfields?——E. Canning. About half an hour.——Q. Did any body pass at the time?—E. Canning. Nobody at all.—Q. Was this box, that contained your half guinea, taken out of your pocket?—E. Canning. Yes, sir, it was. Q. Had you any thing else in your pocket?—E. Canning. I had a pocket handkerchief with a pye in it, which I did not lose.—Q. Was there any light near this place where you was first attacked?—E. Canning. There was a lamp. Q. Have you recollected how long you lay in this fit before you came to yourself?—E. Canning. I cannot be sure, but it was about half an hour before I arrived at Wells's house.—Q. During the time of your first being attacked, whether you had any degree of sense at all?—E. Canning. Not till half an hour before I came to that house.—Q. Had you sense enough of any sort to know by what means you was conducted?—E. Canning. I think they dragged me along by my petticoats, they were made so dirty, but I was not sensible.—Q. Was you in any sur-

prise

prise when she took your stays?—E. Canning. I was in a great surprise, and all of a tremble.—Q. Then how can you tell who was there at the time?---E. Canning. The terror made me look about me to see what company was there.---Q. How long did the two men stay in the room? E. Canning. They staid no longer than till they saw my stays cut off, then they went away, before I was put up in the loft.—Q. Did not you make an attempt to get out before that Monday you talk of?—E. Canning. I did not. Q. How came you not to make an attempt before?—E. Canning. Because I thought they might let me out; it never came into my head till that morning.—Q. Where was you sitting when you saw somebody peep through the crack of the door?—E. Canning. I was walking along the room.—Q. How wide was this crack?—E. Canning. It was about a quarter of an inch wide.—Q. Did not you, in the whole 27 days, perceive where you was?—E. Canning. I did in about a week after, by seeing the coach go by.—Q. Was not you extremely weak?—E. Canning. I was pretty weak.—Q. Was you ever that way before?—— E. Canning. No, I never was.—Q. Did not you pass many houses in your way home?—E. Canning. I did, and asked my way of people on the road.—Q. How came you being in that deplorable condition, not to go into some house, and relate the hardships you had gone through?—E. Canning. I thought if I did, may be I might meet somebody belonging to that house.—Q. Did you see the prisoner Wells while you was in that confinement?—E. Canning. I never saw her in the house at all till I went down afterwards.—Q. Had you any of your fits while in that room?—E. Canning. I had not, but was fainting and sick.—Squires. I never saw that witness in my lifetime, till this day three weeks.—Q. How was the prisoner Squires dressed when you was carried in?—E. Canning. She was sitting in her gown with a handkerchief

chief about her head.—Q. Did you never during all the time, try if the door was fastened or not?—E. Canning. I did once push against it with my hand, and found it fast. Q. Had you used to hear any body in the kitchen?——E. Canning. I heard people sometimes blowing the fire, and passing in and out. There was another room in which I heard a noise at nights, but the house was very quiet in the day-time.—Q. Did you eat all your bread?—E. Canning. I eat it all on the Friday before I got out; it was quite hard, and I used to soak it in the water.——Q. When did you drink all your water?—E. Canning. I drank all that about half an hour before I got out of the room.

Vertue Hall. I know the two prisoners at the Bar; Wells lived at Enfield Wash; I went and lived there as a lodger. Mary Squires lived in the house, and had been there about seven or eight weeks.—Q. How long before E. Canning was brought in?—Vertue Hall. About a fortnight before, which was on the 2d of January, about four in the morning, she was brought in there by two men; John Squires was one of them, he is son to Mary Squires, the other man I don't know any thing of, I never saw him before.—Q. How was she dressed when brought in?—Vertue Hall. She had no gown on, or hat or apron.—Q. Who was in the house at the time?—Vertue Hall. There was I and Mary Squires, the prisoner and her daughter; the gipsy man said, *Mother, I have brought you a girl, do you take her*; then she asked E. Canning whether she would go her way.---Q. What did she mean by that?---Vertue Hall. She meant for her to turn whore, but she would not.---Q. Do you mention this by way of explanation, or as words as she said?---Vertue Hall. As words as she said: then Mary Squires took a knife out of a dresser drawer in the kitchen, and ripped the lace off her stays, and pulled them off, and hung them on the back of a

chair



MARY SQUIRES THE GYPSY,
Convicted on Account of Eliz.h Canning
but afterwards reprieved.

Publish'd by R. S. Kirby, in Ann's Court, No. 1, Gt. Ormond Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

chair in the kitchen, and pushed her up into the room, and said, D—n you, go up there then, if you please; then the man that came in with the gypsy's son, took the cap off Elizabeth Canning's head, and went out of doors with it; the gypsy man John Squires, took the stays off the chair, and went out with them.—Q. Where was E. Canning, when the two men took away the things?—Vertue Hall. She was then up in the room.—Q. Had you ever been in that room?—Vertue Hall. I had, before she was brought there, several times. Q. What was the name they called it by?—Vertue Hall. They called it by the name of the work-shop; there was a great deal of hay in it; they only put lumber in it; there was a great many pieces of wood, a tobacco mould, and this black jug: About three hours after the young woman was put up, Mary Squires filled the jug with water, and carried it up. Q. How do you know it was three hours after?—Vertue Hall. Then it began to be lightish. Q. Did you hear any talk between them after she was in the room?—Vertue Hall. They took care I should know but little. Q. Has Susannah Wells a husband?—Vertue Hall. No, she has not; when I went out of the kitchen, I went into the parlour; Wells said, Vertue Hall, the gipsy man came in and told me that his mother had cut the stays off the young woman's back, and he had got them; and she bid me not say any thing to make a clack of it, fearing it should be known. Q. How long was you in that house?—Vertue Hall. I was there a quarter of a year in all, if not more; I was there the whole time E. Canning was there, but I never saw her once after she was put up into that room; I was the first that missed her; I asked the gipsy woman once, whether the girl was gone; she answered, What is that to you, you have no business with it; but I durst not go to see if she was gone; if I had, very likely they would

have served me so. Q. Did you ever see the other man after that night?—Vertue Hall. No, I never did. Q. Who lodged in the house at the time besides?—Vertue Hall. There was Fortunatus did. Q. Did Mary Squires continue in the house long after this?—Vertue Hall. She did, till we were all taken up, which was, I think, on the Thursday after the young woman was gone. Q. What was you in that house?—Vertue Hall. I went there as a lodger, but I was forced to do as they would have me.

Q. From Mary Squires. What day was it that the young woman was robbed?—Court. She says in the morning of the second of January. M. Squires. I return thanks for telling me, for I am as innocent as the child unborn.

Q. From Wells. How long were these people (meaning the gipsies) at my house in all, from first to last?—Vertue Hall. They were there six or seven weeks in all; they had been there about a fortnight before the young woman was brought in. Q. Did you ever see this cap or bed-gown before?—Vertue Hall. Not to my knowledge.

Thomas Colley. I am Elizabeth Canning's uncle; I live at Saltpetre Bank: on the New Year's day she dined and supped at my house, and went away about nine in the evening, as near as I can guess; I and my wife went along with her to Houndsditch, almost to the Blue Ball, there we parted with her, about a quarter or very near half an hour after nine o'clock. Q. How was she cloathed?—Colley. She had a gown, hat, and white apron on.

Elizabeth Canning. E. Canning, that has given her evidence, is my daughter; after she was missing from New Year's day, I advertised her three times; she came back on the day before King Charles's martyrdom, about a quarter after ten o'clock at night; she had nothing but this ragged bed-gown and a cap, I fell into a fit directly; my

my daughter is subject to fits; there was a garret ceiling fell in upon her head, which first occasioned them; and at times, when any body speaks hastily to her, or on any surprize, she is very liable to fall in one; she has sometimes continued in one, seven or eight hours, sometimes three or four; she is not sensible during the time she is in one, no more than a new born babe: when I came to myself, my daughter was talking to Mrs. Woodward and Mr. Wintlebury; they asked her where she had been, she said on the Hertfordshire Road, which she knew by seeing a coach going by; she gave the same account she has here. When she came into her warm bed, she was very sick, and had no free passage through her for stool or urine, till she was supplied with glisters for seven days after she came home, but what was forced by half a cup full at a time.

John Wintlebury. I saw Elizabeth Canning the night she came home; she appeared in a very bad condition, and had this dirty bed-gown and cap on. Hearing she was come home, I went to her mother's house, and said, Bet, How do you do? She said, I am very bad. Said I, Where have you been? She said, she had been somewhere on the Hertfordshire Road, because she had seen the Hertfordshire Coach go backwards and forwards.—Q. Have you heard the evidence she has given here in court?—Wintlebury. I have; she gave the same account that night, but not quite so fully that night as she did before the sitting Alderman, on the Wednesday after, but all agrees with what she has said there; I found her in a great flurry, so did not ask her many questions that night.

Joseph Adamson. I have known E. Canning the younger for some years; I never saw her after she came home, till the day we went down to take the people up; I and several neighbours of us agreed to go to the place, some on horseback and some in the coach with E. Can-

ning; I was down about an hour, or an hour an half, before the coach came, and had secured all the people we found there; I seeing the room before she was brought in, thought she was capable of giving some account of it; I returned to meet her, and asked her about it; she described the room with some hay in it, a chimney place in the corner of it, an odd sort of an empty room; I went with her to the house, and carried her out of the chaise into the kitchen, and set her on the dresser, and ordered all the people to be brought to her, to see if she knew any of them; she was then very weak; I took her in my arms like a child: Upon seeing Mary Squires, she said, That is the woman that cut my stays off, and threatened to cut my throat if I made a noise. Q. Did any of the people seem unwilling to be inspected.—Adamson. Yes, they were very unwilling to be stopped, when we went down in the morning, particularly Mary Squires; after the girl had said this of Squires, Squires said to her, she hoped she would not swear her life away, for she never saw her before; E. Canning pointed to Vertue Hall, and said, That young woman was in the kitchen when I was brought in; she pointed also to another young woman, and said, She was there at the time. Then we carried her up to examine the house; she said, none of the rooms she had seen, was the room in which she was confined: Then I asked if there were any other room; they said, yes, out of the kitchen, (I had before been in it, but did not say so then, because I had a mind to see if she knew it;) we had her up into it; she said, This is the same room in which I was, but here is more hay in it than there was then; I laid my hand upon it, and said, It has lately been shook up; it lay hollow: she was then pretty near a casement. Said I, If you have been so long in this room, doubtless you are able to say what

what is to be seen out here: she described a hill at a distance, which is Chinkford-Hill; I believe she could not see it at the time she spoke about it, for I was between her and the casement, with my back towards the casement; she also said there were some houses on the other side of the lane; then I opened the casement, we looked, and it was as she had described: I asked where was the window she broke out of; she shewed it us (there were some boards nailed up against it), and said, That is the window I used to see the coach go by at; then we pulled down the boards, it was big enough for me to have got out of it, it appeared to me to be the same window before she came to the house, for I saw some of the plaister broke off on the outside; that window was one story high.

Edward Lyon. The young woman lived servant with me till she was missing: I live in Aldermanbury, I was one of the persons that went down to Wells's house, I went after the rest of the gentlemen on the first of February, we were there some time before she came, and had taken the people up; when she came, she was carried into the kitchen, and set on the dresser, and the people sat all round her; I said to her, Bet, don't be frightened or uneasy, you see your friends about you, and on the other hand don't be too sure, without you really can swear to what you say, therefore be very careful. She pitched upon Mary Squires to be the person that cut her stays off; she pitched upon a young woman that was said to be daughter to Mary Squires, and said she was in the kitchen at the time, and likewise Vertue Hall, but said they did nothing to her; this black jug was brought down, a bason, and the tobacco mould; she said they were both in the room where she was confined; she had described this jug before, and said it was broken at the mouth, as it now appears to be.

Robert

Robert Scarrat. I went down to Enfield-Wash, there were six of us in all, her mother and two women were with her in the chaise; she described the fields, and likewise a bridge, that night she came home, near the house; I asked her if she perceived a tanner's house near, she said she believed there was.—Q. Have you heard the other evidences that went down, give their evidence? Scarrat. I have, and what they said is the truth, which I heard also; I also heard E. Canning examined before the sitting alderman, she gave the same account she has done here.—Q. Was John Squires in the room at the time she pitched upon his mother and the rest? Scarrat. He was; she said she could not swear to him; he had his great coat on at our first going there, but he had pulled it off; she said he looked like the person, but she could not swear to him; they made him put his great coat on before the Justice, then she said, he looked more like one of the two men that brought her there.

Edward Rossiter. I went down with the rest on the Thursday; I heard E. Canning examined before Mr. Tyshemaker the Justice; she gave the same account then as now; she said John Squires was much like one of the men, when he had got his great coat on? she said, she did not see Wells in the house, but she once saw her out at a window, but did not know she was the woman that belonged to the house.

Sutherton Bakler. I am an apothecary; I saw E. Canning the day after she came home, on the 30th of January about noon, she was extremely low and weak; I could scarcely hear her speak, her voice was so low, and her pulse scarcely to be felt, with cold sweats; she told me she had no passage during the whole time of her confinement, she was then in such a condition she had a glyster administered the same day; she had many glysters given her, which after some time relieved her.—Q. Whether

Q. Whether a person that is extremely costive cannot subsist longer without food, or with less food, than a person that is not so? Bakler. I cannot answer to that. Each of the persons that said they went down to take the prisoners were asked where they went to, and answered to Endfield-Wash, the house of the prisoner Wells.

Mary Squires said nothing in her defence, but called the following witnesses:

John Gibon. I live at Abbotsbury, six miles from Dorchester, I am master of the house called the Old Ship; on the first of January, 1753, the prisoner Squires came into the house; there was George her son, and Lucy her daughter with her, as she called them; she came with handkerchiefs, lawns, muslins, and checks, to sell about town; she staid there from the first to the ninth day of the month, and lay at my house.—Q. How long have you kept that house? Gibon. I have kept it two years, come Lady-day.—Q. Look at the woman, are you sure that is her? Gibon. He looks at Squires, and says, I am sure it is.

CROSS EXAMINATION.

Q. How long have you known her?—Gibon. I have known her three years, and have seen her there three years ago. Q, How long have you lived there?—Gibon. I was born at that town, I am a married man, have a wife and one child, I was bred in the farming way at Fisherton. Q. By what do you recollect the day?—— Gibon. There came an exciseman to officiate there for one John Ward that was sick, and I put the day of the month down when he came; the excise office is kept at my house, the man that came was Andrew Wicks, or Wick. Q. Did you see the prisoner sell any of these goods you mentioned?—Gibon. No, I did not; they offered them to sell to me, and others; my wife bought two checque aprons.

William

William Clark. I live at Abbotsbury, and have for seven years; I remember seeing the gipsy there; the last time I saw her, was on the 10th of January last; I met with them on the road, we went some way together, we parted at Crudeway Foot, four miles from Abbotsbury, and there from Dorchester. Q. Where was they going? —Clark. I can't tell that. Q. Had you ever seen her before?—Clark. I saw her, and her son and daughter, three years ago come March, at Abbotsbury; they came with handkerchiefs, lawns, and muslins to sell; I saw the landlord's wife at the ship buy some aprons of them the last time they were there.

CROSS EXAMINATION.

Q. How came you to take particular notice of the day? —Clark. By keeping my other accounts; I carried goods out with me the same day to Portesham. Q. Have you your book with you?—Clark. No, I have not, but I can't forget the day, because I don't go so often. Q. Which way were they going?—Clark. They were making for London, they talked so. Q. Did they give you any account to what place they were bound next?—Clark. They did not; they lodged at this man's house (pointing to Gibon) at Abbotsbury. Q. Did you see them there? —Clark. I did, on the first of January; I commonly go there of an evening to have a pot of liquor. Q. Do you remember when you kept Christmas day. Clark. I do not. Q. Can you give any account of the New-style or Old?—Clark. No, I cannot; but if I was to die for the woman, I'll speak the truth. Q. How was she cloathed there?—Clark. The same as now, and the son in a blue coat and red waistcoat, and had a great coat with him. Q. What size is he?—Clark. He is about five feet seven or eight inches high; the girl was in a camblet gown. Q. You are sure you saw her the time you mention?—Clark. I undertake to swear positively

to

to that, that I saw her there on the first of January last, and either on the ninth or tenth afterwards, and saw them going about the town in the time to sell things. Q. What are you?—I am a housekeeper, and have been in business about six years; I am a cordwainer.

Thomas Grevil. I live at Coom, three miles from Salisbury; I keep a public house there, the sign of the Lamb; I saw Mary Squires at my house on the 14th of January. Q. How many miles is Coom from Dorchester?—Grevil. I cannot tell. Q. Who was with her there?—Grevil. There was her sister and her brother, as she said; they sold handkerchiefs, lawns, and such things. Q. How long did she stay at Coom?—Grevil. They stopped there but one night.

CROSS EXAMINATION.

Q. What January do you mean? Grevil. I mean last January, five weeks ago last Sunday.—Q. How came you to take such particular notice of it?—Grevil. There was a carpenter at my house, he having spent the biggest part of his money, it being Sunday night, I would have him go about his business, and put him out of the house two or three times, and after that he went over the way to another house, and pawned his axe.——These three witnesses shewed their subpœnas, as the cause of their coming to give their evidence.

FOR THE CROWN.

John Iniser. I sell fish and oysters about Waltham-Cross and Theobalds. I know the prisoner Squires very well by sight; the last time I saw her before now, was at the time she was taken at Susannah Wells's house; before that I had seen her several times every day up and down before she was taken.—Q. Are you very certain of that? Iniser. I am that I saw her three weeks before, that she walked into people's houses pretending to tell fortunes: she told me mine once.—Q. Did you see any

goods she had to sell? Iniser. No, I did not, I always saw her by herself: I saw a young man in blue-grey when she was taken up, and two young women, all taken in the house of Wells.

Wells being called upon to make her defence, said, As to her character it was but an indifferent one, that she had had an unfortunate husband who was hanged. And added, she never saw the young woman (meaning E. Canning) till they came to take us up: and as to Squires, she never saw her above a week and a day before they were taken up.——Squires guilty, DEATH.—Wells guilty.

Squires, the last day of the sessions, being asked what she had to say before she received sentence, answered, that, "On New Year's Day I lay at Coom, at the widow Grevil's house; the next day I was at Stoptage; there were some people who were cast away, and they came along with me to a little house on the top of the moor, and drank there; there were my son and daughter with me. Coming along Popham Lane, there were some people raking up dung. I drank at the second alehouse in Basingstoke on the Thursday in the new year week. On the Friday I lay at Bagshot-Heath, at a little tiney house on the heath. On the Saturday I lay at Old Brentford, at Mrs. Edwards's, who sells greens and small-beer. I could have told this before, but one pulled me and another pulled me, and would not let me speak. I lay at Mrs. Edwards's on the Sunday and Monday, and on the Tuesday or Wednesday after I came from thence to Mrs. Wells's house."

The trial being thus ended, some days after the condemnation of the gipsy, it began to be talked that Vertue Hall, who had sworn so positively to all the particulars at the Old Bailey, had or would recant all her evidence that she had deposed there, and swear the whole to be false. Dr. Hill, a gentleman well known for his many writings,

writings, seems to have been principally the first concerned in bringing out this recantation of Vertue Hall. During which time, Dr. Hill assures us that the Lord Mayor, Sir Crisp Gascoyne, had received proofs as strong as even this recantation of Vertue Hall, of the perfect innocency of the gipsy.

Dr. Hill's pamphlet warmly insisted upon the improbability of Canning's story, and the consequent innocence of the gipsy; which in fact caused public opinion to be so highly interested in the affair, that after their prejudice in favour of the girl Canning, had subsided, the gipsies friends met with very little difficulty in bringing her opponent to trial. It is allowed to be incontestably true that the girl came home to her mother in a ragged and starved condition; but yet, there was no proof but what she might have possibly been elsewhere, as her description of mother Well's house, and a number of other particulars, were positively contradictory and defective. If she had been elsewhere, the greatest misfortune of the gipsy's friends, was they could not possibly prove where she really had been.—Elizabeth Canning's friends, particularly Henry Fielding, Esq. represented her as a poor, inoffensive, simple girl; this however, the other party represented as a matter by no means clear. As for Vertue Hall, though she seemed at first entirely gained over to Canning's cause, she did not appear to have been in the least degree acquainted with Canning's secrets or her real situation.

A medical gentleman, Dr. Cox, said much to prove that the chastity of E. Canning remained perfectly inviolate after her return to her mother's, which was corroborated by a Mr. Dodd, and others; however, we now proceed to the last scene of this mysterious affair, the trial of E. Canning, she being indicted for wilful and

corrupt perjury, at the April sessions of the Old Bailey, 1753.

On this occasion, it is to be observed, there were two indictments preferred, one against her, and another against the Abbotsbury witnesses, who appeared in behalf of Mary Squires on her trial. On examining the witnesses on both sides, the Grand Jury finding a contradiction between them, threw out both the bills, to prevent the perjuries on one side or the other, that the trial of these causes would occasion in court. But the parties against Canning did not rest here, but again preferred an indictment against her at the June sessions following; at which time an indictment was preferred the second time against the Abbotsbury witnesses; both which indictments were found by the Grand Jury the 8th of June last. In consequence of this, the Abbotsbury witnesses appeared on their trial at the Old Bailey; but by the neglect or oversight of those who prosecuted them, not a single witness was subpœnaed against them, nor any council fee'd to attend the trial; but on the day of trial, certificates were delivered to remove the indictments into the Court of King's Bench, yet under such circumstances, that the court at the Old Bailey ordered the persons indicted to the bar; and there being no person then to appear against them, they were discharged. Canning's friends, to prevent her trial at the Old Bailey till the Lord Mayor, who was the gipsy's friend, was out of office, and thinking to remove it into the Court of King's Bench, took care to secret her so that when the indictment for perjury was to be served upon her she could not be found. However, Canning's friends fearing the consequences of an outlawry, they gave notice they would surrender her up in the April sessions, and Monday the 29th was the day fixed for the trial.

As

As this event had long engaged the attention of the public, the court was, early on the day, crowded to an uncommon degree. The Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Mr. Baron Legge, Mr. Baron Clive, and other Justices for London and Middlesex, with the Recorder of the city of London, were on the bench. The counsel for the prosecution were Mr. Davy, Mr. Willes, and Mr. Gascoyne; for the prisoner, Mr. Moreton, Mr. Naires, and Mr. Williams.

Elizabeth Canning was brought into court about nine o'clock, dressed in a clean linen gown, and had a black bonnet on. Her behaviour appeared quite modest, and she did not seem any ways terrified or discomposed: her stature is short, and her complexion fresh. But it is unnecessary to say more of her person, as the portrait in our last number is a striking resemblance. The Court proceeding to business, she was indicted for that she, not having the fear of God before her eyes, did wickedly endeavour, by wilful and corrupt perjury, to take away the life of one of his Majesty's subjects (contrary to the laws of this kingdom, and his Majesty's crown and dignity), in falsely swearing a robbery against Mary Squires, a gipsy. To which indictment the prisoner pleaded Not Guilty, and put herself upon her trial. The Jury being then called over, fifteen of them were challenged by the prosecutor's council, and only three by the prisoner.

The gipsy was then brought into Court in an armed chair by two or three men, and appeared very sick and faint, her head likewise shaking very much: she was dressed in a stuff gown, having a white whittle over her shoulders, a white napkin pinned over her head, and a black bonnet on. She is about eighty years of age: her complexion (either natural or stained) is very swarthy, as gipsies always are. The most distinguishing features of her countenance, are a very wide mouth, and a large

nose:

nose; but her portrait, which we have given in the present number, will better express her countenance.

Upon account of the faintness of the gipsy, she was carried several times into an adjoining room, for the benefit of fresh air, and was brought into court occasionally as her presence was necessary: her son George and her daughter Lucy, attended her all the time. The prisoner Canning had likewise liberty to sit down.—— The indictment was opened by the council, that Elizabeth Canning did falsely, wickedly, and corruptly swear, that she was carried by two men on the first of January, 1753, about nine o'clock, from Moorfields, and brought into the house of mother Wells at Enfield Wash, about four o'clock on the morning of the second of January; that she was there assaulted and robbed by one Mary Squires a gipsy, and afterwards confined there twenty eight days, &c. going through the whole of her story as we have already given it*. After which he added, that they on their side affirmed that the said Mary Squires was at Abbotsbury, on the second of January, that Elizabeth Canning was not in that room, nor drank the water out of the pitcher, nor took the old gown out of the grate, for that there was no grate there, and that therefore she had falsely, voluntarily, and corruptly sworn.

Another council, observed, that it was the most wilful, corrupt, and impudent perjury, ever committed, that he could wish for the sake of the present case, that the law allowed of a more grievous punishment than could be inflicted as it now stands: To destroy the life of a person for any motive of gain, was a most inhuman and wicked offence; and that, that was her motive would appear plain: the design was to raise contributions from the public. The advertisements and papers handed about to raise compassion, &c. all showed this; that those papers

* See page 264 of our last Number.

were

were universally known to have had a great effect, and that those who endeavoured to raise such prejudices, would be guilty of perjury but for fear; that he did not know but that even the very countenance of the gipsy, which struck horror into the beholder, contributed to prejudice the jury against her; that he did not say this to raise prejudices on the other side (for that he was persuaded there was such a jury now, as would examine every thing thoroughly, and bring in their verdict accordingly, for they had proofs that would command the consent, and convince every dispassionate man, that she was never robbed by Mary Squires, nor ever at Enfield Wash; that the proof of one perjury would be sufficient, but that he hoped to prove them all. He then told the jury, that he hoped they had seen the house of mother Well's; if so, he would spare himself a great deal of trouble, for it was impossible for any man who had seen the room, to think she had been confined there so long, when she might have escaped from it in the first half hour; and that it was as improbable, that after remaining so long there as she has said, and being so long emaciated by her scanty diet, that she should travel so far as ten miles and a half, without stopping; that she should pass by so many magnificent houses as were on the road, (which she could not possibly suspect as confederates of mother Wells) without going in to tell her story, and get some relief and assistance: however, he acknowledged that it must be owned it was possible; but then it was so improbable, as amounted to almost the same thing. But he would lay open such a chain of evidence, as would wholly prove that her whole story was false; that he would prove that Mary Squires was one hundred and thirty miles off on the second of January; and then pointed to Mary Squires, he observed, that she could not be mistaken for any other thing that God ever made; that they would account by different witnesses

witnesses for Mary Squires, from being at South Parrot, in Dorsetshire, on the 29th of December, 1752, to her arrival at the house of mother Wells, at Enfield Wash, on the 22d or 23d of January, 1753. That she was at Abbotsbury from the first to the ninth of January, 1753, and then she went to Portesham; on the eleventh she was crossing the water at Dorchester, the thirteenth at Martin, the fourteenth between Martin and Coom, on the road from thence to Basingstoke on the sixteenth and seventeenth, and at Basingstoke on the eighteenth; that there was a circumstance happened there, which would prove their being there at that time beyond doubt; for that he must take notice, that though the gipsy was so ugly and deformed a creature, she had a very beautiful daughter, who being courted by one William Clark, of Abbotsbury, she had at Basingstoke (not being able to write herself) got the landlady where they stopped to write a letter for her to her sweetheart, (which was read in court). It is only needful to add, that the gipsies being at all these places, was sufficiently proved by more than a dozen witnesses.

By all this it appeared, he said, that the gipsy could not be at Enfield Wash till the 22d or 23d of January; therefore the prisoner was guilty of wilful and corrupt perjury, in persisting so long in charging the gipsy with robbing her, after so many witnesses had sworn to her being elsewhere. They then went on to observe the contradictions in her several informations; the chief of which were, that in the first information which she had sworn to before the sitting Alderman, it was put down, that she had been confined in a little, dark, square room, (though she said there were two windows, one glazed, the other partly boarded, partly glazed,) whereas the room itself, instead of being small, square, and dark, measured thirty feet, by nine broad, and the casement of the window was so large,

large, that a fat man might have got out of it, and therefere the room must be light: and it was so low, that a child might have leaped out of it to the ground.—In her first information it was said that she lay upon nothing but bare boards, whereas there was half a load of hay in the room: That she at first deposed, that her water failed her on the Friday before her escape on the Monday; but, on the trial of Mary Squires, she swore that she drank the last of her water about half an hour before she made her escape. That in her first information she had said, there was only an old stool or two, an iron grate, an old table, and an old picture over the chimney; whereas, instead of a grate, the floor of the chimney was found covered with cobwebs, that seemed the work of many generations of spiders; three saddles were found in the room, fastened to the walls with the webs of the same insects; and a large nest of drawers was also found there, with a bed made of straw; that there was no picture over the chimney, nothing but an old casement, which was covered with dirt and cobwebs.—It was likewise observed, that the defendant kept out of the way of trial, and that flight was in the eye of the law considered as a presumption of guilt.

[*The whole of these interesting particulars will be concluded in our next.*]

ACCOUNT *of a* JOURNEY *to* MOUNT PERDU, *the highest of the* PYRENEES. *By* M. RAYMOND.

ON the summit of Mount Perdu, says he, I remained two hours, and which ever way I turned my eyes, could perceive nothing that had life, but an eagle, which passed over our heads, flying directly againt the wind with inconceivable rapidity. In less than a minute we lost sight of him. We ourselves could scarcely stand against the violence of the wind over which an eagle triumphed with such ease, and it produced an insupportable degree of cold. No wind so speedily diminishes animal warmth as

the south, when exposed to its action in the most elevated regions of the atmosphere. It owes this property to its dryness and rapidity, which exhaust the evaporation of such bodies as are susceptible of it. We were chilled, though the thermometer did not indicate a very low temperature. This inconvenience is the only one that I there experienced. We breathed, without difficulty, an air already so rarified, that many could not have existed in it. I have more than once seen many strong people obliged to stop at a much lower elevation; and, at Col-du-Geant, where the air is only at the same degree of rarefaction, Saussure experienced a kind of suffocation, and began to feel ill, when he took more violent exercise than usual. Here we met with nothing of the kind. The state of the pulse alone indicated an alteration, independent of the agitation of the journey; the pulse did not become more tranquil by repose. During the whole time we remained on the summit, it was low and quick, in the proportion of 5 to 4. This fever, which is nervous, sufficiently shewed how we should be affected at a greater elevation; but, at the height at which we were, it produced a quite contrary effect. Far from causing a dejection, it seemed to sustain my strength, and raise my spirits, which generally occurs in every region moderately elevated.

Circumstantial Details *of* Stones *falling from the* Clouds.

In a letter written from Benares, in the East Indies, by Mr. John Williams, and addressed to the President of the Royal Society of London, it is related, that on the 19th of December, 1798, towards eight o'clock in the evening, the weather being perfectly calm, the inhabitants of Benares and the circumjacent places perceived a meteor of a dazzling brightness, and which resembled a large ball of fire. It was accompanied with a great noise, like

like that of thunder. A great number of stones fell soon after on the ground, near the village of Krakut, to the north-east of the river Goanity, about eleven miles distant from Benares. Authentic documents in reference to this fact were taken on the spot, by order of the magistrate; they perfectly accord. Several specimens of these stones have been sent to Europe; they have been described and analised by Messrs. Bournon and Howard. Here follows the result of their chemical labours :—The stones are covered, through the whole extent of their surface, by a very thin crust, of a dark black, strewed with little asperities, which produce, when touched, an impression like that of a skin lightly shagreened.

The interior is of a grey colour, of a coarse texture, pretty much resembling free-stone. We can easily distinguish in it iron in the metallic state. The analysis gives likewise silex, magnesia, oxyde of iron, and oxyde of nickel.

The second example is taken from a letter, dated at Sienna, in Italy, by Sir William Hamilton. It announces, that on the 12th of July, 1794, in the height of a very violent storm, there fell at Sienna stones of different magnitude. Their fall took place about eighteen hours after a fierce eruption of Mount Vesuvius, distant 250 miles. This letter was accompanied with a specimen of one of those stones. It exhibited the same exterior characters as those of Benares, and the analysis traced in it the same substances, although in proportions somewhat different.

The third example is that of a similar fall, which took place in Yorkshire.—On the 13th of December, 1795: a stone weighing fifty six pounds, fell with a great number of explosions, like discharges of artillery. The stone, when taken from the earth, was hot and smoking.—It presented the same exterior and interior characters as the two preceding.

A fourth example is that of a stone which fell in Bohemia, on the 3d of July, 1753.—It yielded the same results.—Its specific weight was 4281.—We shall confine ourselves to these facts, because they are announced in such a manner as to acquire much probability.——"We have seen (says the reporter to the institute) specimens of these stones; they all present the characters included in the preceding description.

We could find, in the writings of the ancients, a great number of recitals, which agree perfectly well with the foregoing, but, without going so far back, we shall quote a remarkable passage found in some observations of Freret on the prodigies reported by the ancients.

"The famous Gassendi, whose accuracy and knowledge are both well known, relates, that on the 27th of November, 1617, the sky being very clear, he saw fall, about ten o'clock in the morning, on Mount Vaisien, between the towns of Guillaume and Pesne, in Provence, an inflamed stone, which appeared about four feet in diameter.—It was bordered with a luminous circle of different colours, pretty much like the rainbow. Its fall was accompanied with a noise like that of many cannons firing at once.—This stone weighed fifty nine pounds; it was of a dark and metallic colour and extremely hard."

This description of Gassendi is perfectly conformable to that of Mr. Howard, and gives a great probability to the fact we are examining; but, what confirms it in a still stronger manner, is that all these stones, composed of the same principles, include nickel, a substance which is rarely found on the surface of the earth; and likewise iron in the metallic state, which is never seen in the products of volcanoes.—We cannot, therefore, attribute the fall of these stones to volcanic eruptions, and we have seen that there also, exists moral proofs which are repugnant to this mode of explication.

A SINGULAR CHARACTER.

Mr. Thomas Jenkins, *an English Banker, at Rome.*

This celebrated banker, says a French traveller, for some time studied painting; but perceiving that he was not likely to become a proficient, he contented himself with the character of an able connoisseur.—He was well versed in the theory of painting, as far as it related to design, and was well acquainted with medals, engravings, &c.—With their history, he was perfectly familiar, and no one was better acquainted with that of a bas relief, a statue, or a bust, whatever injury they had sustained from the tooth of time.—To sum up the character of his judgment, in a few words; with respect to painting and sculpture, he was often consulted by Italian connoisseurs, *viz.* the famous Cardinal Alexander Albani, the celebrated Winckelman, and that illustrious painter, Mengs.—Mr. Jenkins set out as a man of business, in dealing in pictures, statues, and medals, and afterwards associated this profession with that of a banker; and as he enjoyed the confidence of almost every person of distinction at Rome, he succeeded in amassing a considerable fortune. Mr. Jenkins's manner of disposing of those articles just mentioned, was truly original.—If you would purchase a medal, a picture, &c. he would relate to you every historical particular concerning them.—He would even work himself up to a degree of warmth in expatiating upon their rarity, their singularity; and would sometimes even shed tears on parting with them.—A father separating from his only daughter going to a distant country, could not have testified more affliction.—And when the purchaser has been leaving him, Sir, Mr. Jenkins would say, if ever you repent in the least degree of your purchase return it to me, and your money shall be immediately forthcoming.—In restoring me such a medal, you will certainly restore me one of the greatest comforts I possess. And

And upon the return of any of the articles disposed of upon these conditions, Mr. Jenkins never deviated from his word, but surrendered the purchase money with a degree of satisfaction, not less ardent than that of his reluctance on first parting with the article; besides which, it was not unfrequent with him to invite the person to dinner, with whom he had dealt upon these terms.

With respect to the reality of Mr. Jenkins's professions whatever may be the doubts entertained, it is certain that he carried the semblance of his sincerity to the highest point of perfection. He was living at Rome, about the year, 1797.

CHARACTER *of the* EMPRESS ELIZABETH *of* AUSTRIA, *unparalleled in Modern History.*

MR. EDITOR,—Reading in the Morning Post some days ago a number of unnatural and sanguinary suggestions respecting the justice and propriety of giving no quarter to prisoners, should the French attempt a landing in this country—I have been endeavouring to discover whether there be any precedent for such conduct in the laws of war or nations; and I must own, that, excepting a very few obscure instances, I can discover nothing so much like the temper and disposition which that paper inculcates as the following History of the Empress Elizabeth. But this, it is to be noted, occurred in the dark ages of popery, and even counteracted itself at last, as it inspired the Swiss, thus made deadly enemies to the House of Austria, with an hatred which they never forgave till they had wrested all their Cantons out of its possession. However, as your MUSEUM is a receptacle of *Remarkable Characters*, that of the Empress Elizabeth, I presume, you will find in every respect entitled to such a distinction. Yours, &c.

Oct. 10, 1803. A LOVER OF MERCY.

AMONG the many sufferings of the Swiss Cantons under the insupportable tyranny of the House of Austria, its yoke was so severe in 1308, the Emperor Albert then reigning, that three or four cantons or districts, probably driven to desperation, rose and drove away the German officers employed by the emperor. Albert hearing this, hastened to Baden to collect the troops necessary to go against these miserable insurgents, and left that

that place on the 1st of May, 1308, to see his spouse the Empress Elizabeth, whom he had left at Rheinfelden. He was accompanied by his nephew John of Suabia, whose possessions he had unjustly withheld, and the Swiss Barons, D'Eschembach, De Walt, De Palm, De Tagerfelden, De Finistigen, and De Castelen. This last Baron was entirely ignorant of the plot which, it seems, the other six had formed, to destroy their sovereign. Having passed the river Rhine, John of Suabia took that opportunity to beseech his uncle to restore him the estates of which he had deprived him. This request the Emperor now refusing with more bitterness than ever, his nephew, enflamed with anger, gave him a thrust with a poiguard. D'Eschembach, then, by a blow with another weapon, split the head of the devoted monarch, which was followed by all the rest excepting De Walt, dipping their swords in his blood; while De Castelen, unable to defend his master, set off at full gallop to carry the news to the court of Albert. Hearing of this, most of the nobles, and among them one of the Archdukes, took horse without delay and rode towards Baden; and some of them arrived upon the spot soon enough to see the Emperor expiring in the arms of a young country girl who had come to his assistance, and whom chance only had thrown in his way to be witness of his last breath. As this news spread with incredible rapidity, all the towns of Helvetia shut their gates, and a general consternation was diffused through the empire. Not that this alarm arose from the regret for his fate, but rather from the consequences that might follow. His murderers, however, who in the first place had only listened to the dictates of revenge, being without troops, magazines, or supplies, and incapable of following up their resistance to their late monarch in a manner suitable to their interests, at first took refuge in the castle of Fribourg, but soon after dispersed in all directions.

rections. While the Empress Elizabeth, enraged at the death of her husband, vowed she would take the most ample revenge upon those who had made her a widow. To a most sanguinary turn of mind, this princess added a degree of insatiable avarice; and she therefore thought of making the death of her husband the means of enlarging and enriching her territory, and she took her measures accordingly. She therefore began by industriously spreading a rumour that the poor Swiss were the accomplices of her husband's murderers, and accordingly put them under the ban or censure of the empire, together with not only her nephew John of Suabia, and the five barons his accomplices, but all their kindred, relations, and even all persons of the same name, their friends, their neighbours, and even their servants, were devoted to death. She even seized upon all the goods belonging to these innocent persons for the purpose of bestowing them upon those who should assist her in attacking their persons. Many gentlemen also increased the number of these fatal proscriptions, only because their estates were conveniently situated to be added to the House of Austria. In a short time after, the Empress's troops were collected to begin with their cruel executions; and as the victims of her wrath, knew they had no quarters, nor lenity to expect, they defended themselves with the greatest vigour even to desperation. But though many of the Empress's party were sacrificed in this deadly strife, the courage of their opponents could not prevail over the numbers brought against them. We are here speaking of some of the Swiss cantons; and, unhappily, the rest of the cantons refused to support them. The Zurichers even gave up the passage of Albis to the Austrians to carry them to the domains of Baron D'Eschembach, and soon after his castle; those of the other five Barons, and several more, were besieged, taken, razed,

or

or burned by the troops of the Empress. The town of Meschwanden was taken by assault, totally destroyed, and its inhabitants dispersed or killed. Fifty persons, mostly nobles, surrendering at discretion, after they had for a long time defended the tower of Althuven, were every one beheaded in the presence of Leopold Duke of Austria. A number of gentlemen who had taken refuge in the fortress of Farvangen, near the lake of Hallweil, thinking to maintain themselves there till they had an opportunity of justifying themselves before the Diet of the Empire, were attacked on all sides by the Empress Elizabeth in person; when, after a vigorous resistance, sixty-three of them that remained alive were conducted to the scaffold in the presence of this cruel monster, who saw them beheaded with the utmost complacency; and, to perpetuate her shame, even gave orders that the axe of the executioner on this occasion should be deposited for a memorial in the castle of Hallweil, exclaiming, at the same time—"This blood is sweeter to me than a bath of roses." The horrors, say the Swiss historians, that she suffered and caused to be committed in the conquered countries, are not to be described. The last branch of the family D'Eschenbach was an infant in the cradle, and which being brought to Agnes, the Queen of Hungary and daughter to the Empress, she wanted to strangle it with her own hands, but, however, she was at length persuaded to let it live, provided its guardians gave it the name of Schwartzenbourg. In fact, this dreadful carnage never ceased till one thousand families were utterly destroyed and extirpated, and of these some were the most distinguished in Switzerland. After this, the mother and the daughter, having satisfied their thirst of blood, but not possibly being so tranquil in their conscience as they might wish, they sought to satisfy this cry of vengeance by consecrating a part of their spoil, to

what

what they deemed religion, and in consequence of this they founded a convent upon the spot where the Emperor Albert was assassinated. But what is still more astonishing, not one of the principal culprits fell in the war that followed the death of the Emperor. John of Suabia, his nephew, disguised as a beggar, flew to Avignon, where, confessing his crime to Clement V. he pardoned him, but sent him for a temporal absolution to the Emperor Henry, who adjudged him to perpetual imprisonment in a convent, where he died soon after at the age of twenty-five years. D'Eschembach flew into Wirtemberg, was a shepherd thirty-five years, and never discovered himself till he was nearly expiring. De Palm got into a convent at Basle, and was never discovered. As for the barons, Tagerfelden and Finstingen, their concealment was so complete that it was never known. De Wart, however, was betrayed to the Empress, and in vain attempted to prove his innocence; he was condemned to be broken on the wheel. It was to no purpose that his young widow came to solicit the mercy of the Empress dowager in a most affecting manner. Neither her youth, beauty, or quality could move the heart of this royal monster; her husband was fastened to the tail of a horse, drawn to the scaffold, and broke alive upon the wheel. This amiable woman, who never quitted him in his tortures till his eyes were closed, retired afterwards to Basle, and took a religious habit, where she was highly esteemed for her virtue and piety. However, the Swiss historian concludes (as all extremes commonly work their own destruction) that this spoilation of the Helvetic barons, brought on a mortal blow to the interests of the House of Austria in Switzerland, and, in its degree, was as serviceable to the cause of the Swiss liberty, as their subsequent victory at the battle of Morgarten.

Curious

Curious Account *of the* Insect *called the* Fly Carrier, *which produces Animal Cotton.*

A member of the American Philosophical Society (M. Baudry des Lobieres) has enabled us to present to the public the following interesting Memoir on Animal Cotton, and the insect which produces it. Every inhabitant of the West Indies, says this gentleman, knows and dreads the greedy worm which devours their indigo and cassada plantations; it is called by some the cassada-worm, by others the fly-carrier; and is produced, like the silk-worm, from eggs scattered by the mother after her metamorphosis into a whitish butterfly. The egg is hatched about the end of July, when the animal is decked with a robe of the most brilliant and variegated colours. In the month of August, when about to undergo its metamorphosis, it strips off its superb robe, and puts on one of a beautiful sea-green, which reflects all its various shades, according to the different undulations of the animal, and the different accidents of light. This new decoration is the signal for its tortures. Immediately a swarm of ichneumon flies assails it, and drive their stings into the skin of their victim, over the whole extent of its back and sides, at the same time slipping their eggs into the bottom of the wounds that they have made.

Having performed this dreadful operation, the flies disappear, and the patient remains for an hour in a motionless state, out of which it awakens to feed with great voracity. Then his size daily increases till the time of his hatching the ichneumon flies. The eggs deposited are hatched at the same moment, and the cassada is instantly covered with a thousand little worms. They issue out of him at every pore, and that animated robe covers him so entirely, that nothing can be perceived but the top of his head. As soon as the worms are hatched, and without

quitting the spot where the eggs are, which they have broke through, they yield a liquid gum, which, by coming into contact with the air, is rendered slimy and solid. Each of these animalculæ works himself a small cocoon, in the shape of an egg, in which he wraps himself, thus making, as it were, his own winding sheet. They seem to be born but to die. These millions of cocoons all attach to each other, and this new formation of theirs, which has not taken two hours, produces a white robe; in this the cassada worm appears elegantly clothed. While they are thus decking him, he remains in a state of almost lethargic torpidity.

As soon as the covering is woven, and the little workmen who have made it have retired and hidden themselves in their cells, the worm endeavours to rid himself of his guests, and of the robe which contains them. He comes out of the inclosure deprived of all his former beauty, in a state of decripitude, exhausted, and threatened with approaching death. He shortly passes to the state of a chrysalis; and, after giving life to thousands of [illegible], leaving to the cultivator an [illegible] which may be so improved as to more than compensate the ravages which he occasions. In about [illegible] the little worms contained in the cocoons are metamorphosed into flies, having four wings. Their antennæ are long and vibrating; some have a tail, others [illegible]; they feed upon small insects of the family of Moths, and evidently belong to the ichneumon tribe.

The cotton-shell or wrapper is of a dazzling white, and as soon as the flies have quitted the cocoon, it may be used without any preparatory precaution; it is made up of the purest and finest cotton; there is no refuse, no impurity in it; every part is as fine and beautiful as [illegible].

M. D[illegible] (the author of this Memoir), urges the [illegible] to preserve, and endeavour to increase the fly-

fly-carrier, in the same manner, and for similar purposes, that the breed of the silk-worm is encouraged. He declares that he has frequently seen so abundant a harvest of the animal cotton, that in the space of two hours he could collect the quantity of one hundred pints, French measure. Moreover, animal cotton is attended with none of the difficulties which occur in the preparation of vegetable cotton, and it requires less time and less trouble to procure it, and there seems to him no doubt that it will stand the competition with silk and vegetable cotton; these, when applied to wounds, serve only to inflame and envenom; but the animal cotton may be used as lint, without the smallest inconvenience.

Further Instances *of the* Faculty *of* Sustaining Heat.

[Translated from the French.]

This faculty is not peculiar to the young Spaniard at Paris (see our last Number, p. 352) and whose case was expatiated upon by so many of the French Journalists in August last.—The Memoires of the French Academy of Sciences for 1761, speak of a young girl who could bear the heat of an oven upwards of ten minutes, though heated beyond the the degree of boiling water. Dr. Cullen, of Edinburgh, also relates a number of similar cases which were collected in 1765, to prove that certain animals possess a faculty of producing cold, probably to counteract heat. Dr. Fordyce, in 1765, remained two minutes in a stove heated to 90 degrees, and 10 minutes in another heated to 48 degrees. Sir Joseph Banks remained in a room heated to 70 degrees. It is the thermometer of Reaumur which is to be understood here. The air, says Sir Joseph Banks, at this high temperature, occasioned a painful sensation, which, however, is still tolerable. Mr. Dobson

Dobson, a physician at Liverpool, has confirmed and renewed all these experiments upon various subjects. Mr. Park, a surgeon, remained ten minutes in a stove heated to 85 degrees. Sir Charles Blagden remained eight minutes in a room heated to 262 of Farenheit, or 102 of Reamur. During the first seven minutes his respiration was perfectly easy; but in the course of another minute he felt a degree of obstruction and some pain, which gave him notice that it was time to drop his experiments. His pulse beat at 144 the minute, or double the time of its natural stage.

The writer from whom these facts are cited, remarks, that the Author of Nature has endowed man with the faculty of sustaining, at least to a very near degree, the same temperature of body in spite of all the changes of climates and seasons; and with respect to the enjoyment of health, to traverse the whole globe with impunity.—Nature has also most happily adapted the constitution of various animals to their different situations—The lizard and the cameleon remain cold under the equator, while the whale and the sea-calf, under the frozen zone, retain a temperature considerably warmer than human blood.

Further particulars of Mr. Robertson's *second Ascent in a Balloon.*

[See the last Number, page 400.]

That gentleman, accompanied by M. Lhoest, made a second ascent from the Garden [illegible] and practised some new and interesting experiments.

Mr. Robertson has found that words may be conveyed upwards of a mile high, while downwards they can be heard only one half that distance.

The solar rays collected, when the thermometer stood at four-

fourteen inches in the focus of a lens, lose one third of their intensity, and when refracted by the prism, no longer exhibited lively and distinct, but weak and confused colours. Weights attached to a spring balance lost one half of their gravity. The magnetic virtue he found decreased as the square of the distances; but at the elevation in question, the needle began again to put itself in motion.

When about seven thousand two hundred feet from the earth, he enclosed in an instrument by M. Hez, four inches of the surrounding air along with mercury, and marked exactly the point where the air and mercury were united; and when he returned to the earth, he found that the mercury filled the whole tube within a tenth.

M. Robertson passed between two large clouds, which seemed to afford a passage to the balloon; the form of these masses of vapour was oblong, and they resembled rags suspended above the earth. Their uppermost parts did not form in their aggregate a smooth surface, as appeared to those who viewed them from the earth, but resembled long pyramids, occasioned probably by caloric raising the mass in proportion to the density of the atmosphere; they appeared to plunge towards the earth, in consequence of an optic effect, resulting from the apparent immobility of the balloon, which, however, was at the time rising at the rate of fifty feet per second.

When the thermometer indicated one degree above freezing, and the barometer stood at fifteen inches, M. Robertson set two pigeons at liberty, and they descended with the rapidity of lightning in a plane, slightly inclined, without moving their wings. When the barometer stood at fourteen inches, he let off another; but after fluttering with difficulty for a moment, it perched on the network, and would not quit it. Two butterflies, let go at the same time, tried to use their wings, but in vain.

M. Robertson is preparing a balloon of between forty

forty and fifty feet diameter, in which he purposes to ascend higher than any aeronaut has yet ventured (22,000 feet from the earth is the greatest elevation yet attained), and is collecting a variety of instruments for further experiments.

STRANGE SUBSTANCES FOUND IN THE HUMAN BODY.

[Continued from page 324.]

A PATIENT of the hospital of [illegible] complained in 1686 of a sharp pain of the lower belly, in the hypogastric region. He had a tumour, inflammation, and pulsation, accompanied by fever; all symptoms denoting an abcess. Hachin and [illegible], the one physician and the other surgeon to the hospital, made an incision of six fingers above the navel. The pus, which flowed freely, was of a very ill scent; it run during several months, and the patient died.—On opening the body, a pin was found, attached to the right ureter, and encrusted with tartareous matter.

On the 31st of July, 1802, a stick of a very extraordinary size, measuring 20½ inches in length, and 2½ in circumference, was taken out of the *side* of an ox a little behind the near shoulder, and not far from the back bone, in the presence of John Beck, farrier; John Smith, servant; and Edward Jones, Esq. of Brackley, the owner of the ox, in whose possession it had been since the 6th of April last, having been bought the preceding day at Northampton fair. The ox, when bought, had a sore place on its back, through which the stick or some other wood forced a passage; it did not thrive before the stick was taken out, and had been long under the farrier's hands, but is now in good health and getting fat. The stick has the appearance of a common walking stick, but is pointed at one end; possibly it may have been used for the purpose of giving the ox a ball, and through carelessness have slipped



SIR WILLIAM STAINES.
Late Worthy Lord. Mayor
of the City of London.

ped down the animal's throat. The above *facts* have been attested on oath, before W. R. Cartwright, Esq. of Aynho, in Northamptonshire.

Facts of this kind are doubtlessly more easy of explanation when they respect pointed bodies, capable of piercing the tunics of the stomach, and insinuating themselves on different sides, according to the directions they receive from the movements of the body; but still it will always be surprising, and difficult o be accounted for, that pins, needles, and other bodies of this species, should traverse the stomach and penetrate every where else, without other accidents than those which occur if, at length, they become engaged in the muscular parts, or in the vessels, whence they cannot escape.

Some ACCOUNT *of Sir* WILLIAM STAINES, *Alderman, and late Lord Mayor of London, with his* PORTRAIT, *including the Vicissitudes of his early Life, and his gradual Progress through various Degrees of Fortune preceding his Advancement to the highest of all Civic Honours.*

THE benevolent character of Sir William Staines having often been the subject of much conversation among a very large circle of the public, we have presumed that, in collecting but a small portion of his history into one point of view, we should not only gratify our readers, but promote and extend that general approbation which is at all times one of the rewards of merit, besides handing down to posterity a subject of laudable emulation and an encouraging instance of what can be effected by perseverance without the assistance of *large capitals*, or any extraordinary gifts of fortune.

Again, at this period of time, there are many national and moral reasons that call for particular attention to such a character as that of Sir William Staines. In an age when the greater part of the upper ranks of society are generally immersed in luxury and dissipation, notwithstanding some royal examples of moderation and domestic happiness; and while the trading interest is chiefly bent upon accumulating wealth by the most excessive and hazardous speculation and through desperate adventure; in such a period, to find an eminent character nobly despising the customary means of amassing sordid gain, and laughing at the cares and anxious pursuits of the mercantile muckworm, and the mercenary and unfeeling monopolizer; this, it must be confessed, is an exception, something like that of Noah, to the practice of the old world.

In the perusal of universal history, it will appear, as if Providence had raised up some such exalted characters as a testimony against the torrents of venality, vice, and corruption that so often prevail in the world, especially in the periods of prosperity or refinement; and thus, as in the principal character before us, some of the *best of men* are often found *in the worst of times*.

But if the more polished periods of society have not produced many, who have thus turned their backs upon Mammon, and refused to worship the golden image, the preceding ages of mediocrity have been more productive of them.—The man of Ross, described by Pope, would not suffer in being compared with the well-known character of Sir William Staines; or if a more familiar comparison should be required, that of Sir William Staines may be found in nearer resemblance to the once famous Sir Richard Whittington [for the particulars of his life see our Number VI.]: but we now proceed to a sketch of the

the origin of Sir William before he arrived at his present dignity.

The birth-place of this worthy man, we find to have been in the parish of St. George, in the Borough of Southwark, in the year 1731, where his father was a stone-mason in so small a way of business, that it is probable the object of Mr. Staines, when very young, was to better his fortune, as after leaving his parents*, some time, he made a voyage to Portugal, as a common sailor. On his return from that trip, the vessel he sailed in was unfortunately captured; and our hero, with the rest of the crew, carried into France, and made the tenants of a French prison. Young Staines, after remaining in this situation six months, was exchanged, and came home in a cartel; but so changed, so emaciated, and so disgaised in tatters, that his own mother could only be persuaded of his identity by some particular mark upon his person, which she insisted upon seeing before she could be convinced.

After this, it is understood that Mr. Staines served his time as an apprentice to a stone-mason, in Cannon Street.—When he was out of his time, he worked as a journeyman with Mr. Pinder, the city mason, who married Mr. Staines's sister. When he left off living in lodgings, he took a chandler's shop and coal shed in Philip Lane, London Wall, where, at the conclusion of his day's labour abroad, he used on his return home to carry out coals to his customers, who never once dreamed that

* It was [illegible] about this time that Mr. Staines, being at Stadhampton [illegible] as a poor boy, was induced to go into a chandler's shop kept by an old woman, and, from the cravings of his appetite, to call for rather more [illegible] bread, and [illegible] cheese, than [illegible] of [illegible] ... the simplicity of his age, [illegible] and ... [illegible], that his creditor soon forgot her first [illegible], and [illegible] with a [illegible] welcome. This act of [illegible] was [illegible] by Sir William when [illegible] of prosperity: he sought out the authoress of the [illegible], and [illegible] the evening of her days, and rewarded her with an annuity as long as she lived.

the man then doing such apparent drudgery was doomed to be their future Lord Mayor.

But in process of time, when Mr. Staines became a little master, and able to undertake small concerns for himself, having obtained his freedom by serving his Majesty, Bow steeple, about 1760, happening to be in want of repair, he fortunately conceived that he should be able to execute the job, and applying for the same by the encouragement of a friend, who was bound for the fulfilment of his contract, his proposals were preferred, and his performance of the business so well approved of, that he was afterwards employed to raise a scaffold for the steeple of St. Bride's, Fleet Street, which was struck with lightning, 1763. This scaffolding being suffered to stand after the business had been done till some of the ropes gave way, a part of it fell, and, what was very remarkable, one of the poles pitching down in a perpendicular direction from that extraordinary height upon a tombstone, it penetrated the same just as if it had been a soft substance, and perforated a round hole, which, of course, was viewed with surprize by a number of spectators. Mr. Staines was afterwards employed to take down the remainder of this scaffolding; and the Scotch pavement being introduced about that time, he was engaged in the paving of several streets; and afterwards had the good fortune to be appointed mason to the city of London. About this time he had a house and a mason's yard in Barbican. But with respect to Bow church being the first means of making his fortune, Mr. Staines seemed to entertain such an intimate sense of it, that when he became Lord Mayor, this church was represented in painting, in the back ground of one of the pannels of the state coach.

We now come to a particular feature in the life of Mr. Staines, respecting some incidents, which, if they had not been very well attested, must have rather staggered than claimed

claimed a rational belief: we mean the prediction of his good fortune by a clergyman's lady at Uxbridge, where he was at work many years ago; as also, of the circumstances which were to attend his mayoralty, as predicted by another person, the particulars of which are related as follows:

"Mr. Staines happened, at a very early age, to be employed in repairing the Parsonage House, at this place, going up the ladder one morning he was accosted by the clergyman's lady; who told him, she had a very extraordinary dream, that is to say that he would certainly become Lord Mayor of London.—Astonished, and perhaps flattered in some degree at such a prophecy, Staines could only thank her for thinking of such an unlooked promotion for him.—He further said he had neither money nor friends, and in short the business of the dream was only considered as dreams usually are, and was very soon forgotten.—The lady however, was not so easily to be turned from her prognostications as the dream had evidently left a great and lasting impression upon her mind, and to such a degree that the same dream occurred again, and the same communications were repeated to him, and yet Mr. Staines left the parsonage house at Uxbridge, with no other impression than the kindness which had been shewn, and the notice that had been taken of him.——It was not until he was made Sheriff of London, in 1797, that this dream returned upon his recollection, though it might be supposed to have been a laudable incitement to his industry through life.—The Uxbridge clergyman had by the time it was thus fulfilled become old; but he lived long enough to be nominated Sheriff's chaplain, at least during six months of the sheriffalty, for being very infirm when he was appointed, Sir William engaged the Rev. Dr. Gregory, of Crippleg[illegible] to do the chaplain's duty, and generously paid [illegible] these gentlemen.

The

This however, was not the only prediction which was hazarded in respect to the figure that Mr. Staines was appointed to display to the world; an aged lady many years ago, is said to have foretold that he would be Lord Mayor during a period of turbulence and scarcity, that we should be at war with France; but that during his mayoralty, peace and plenty would be restored.—The worthy magistrate during that period related this and other anecdotes, which he is fond of, over his pipe and glass; but nevertheless he expressed great doubts on its being fulfilled with respect to a peace; he, however, happily lived to see even this part of the predictions verified, if the peace of Amiens deserved the name. And he expressed a hope that when he went out of office; bread might be 9d. the quartern loaf; but his benevolent wishes in this respect were not fulfilled. This dream and its consequences have often furnished the worthy Alderman, with a subject for conversation, and for that contrast of his former and present situation, upon which he is by no means averse to reason upon, and to exhibit that vein of pleasantry upon so fertile a subject, for which with his other virtues, in his intercourse with all ranks of people, he is both loved and respected; but though humanity has been ever observed as the most prominent feature of his character. Still in him, this disposition, has nothing of weakness or irresolution about it; he has always known how to make himself obeyed; and as one instance among many, Lord Nelson's victory at Copenhagen occurring during his mayoralty, instead of exhibiting a blaze of candles as had been customary, Sir William caused the citizens to be informed by posting bills, that it was his particular desire, that such persons as intended to expend money in that way, instead of so doing would more judiciously add it to the subscription then opened, for the benefit of the widows and children of those who fell in that sanguinary action.—This act though

though much more to the glory of the country, and congenial to the spirit and generosity of Englishmen, than the momentary gleam of a few candles, was at that time generally applauded, with the exception of one public newspaper, soon after defunct. But by the more sober part of the community, this act of suppressing a public illumination, and probably a degree of riot, was highly approved.—By such it was esteemed to new evince the superior goodness of the heart of the chief magistrate and the soundness of his judgment; however it was not carried into effect without some opposition on the part of the populace, who making their appearance in the city on the night the illumination was expected, it was found necessary to order the constables to disperse them immediately, and which was accordingly performed in the course of a few minutes, though the crowd collected on the occasion were both numerous and noisy. It was then observed, that the few people who had put up candles in their windows immediately withdrew them.—The difference of the conduct of Sir William Staines, in thus opposing a popular propensity from that false lenity, and ill-timed forbearance adopted by the chief magistrate, his predecessor in the riots of 1780, must strike the most partial with some degree of conviction. But with the same general approbation with which he had filled the City Chair, so he withdrew from it.—Sir William was no orator, he had made use of no more than strong plain sense, in his harangues to the Livery, and the Citizens at large; he had never inflamed their passions.—Yet the populace in their way, to express their gratitude after the resignation of his office, when he was returning from Westminster, they drew him in his carriage. This we mention here, because in this instance it is not credible that a mob was hired for that purpose, or for shouting their huzzas, as has very often been the case.—And with re-

respect to the subscription recommended by Sir William instead of an illumination, we should perhaps be wanting if we did not observe that in this, as well as upon all other occasions, he was one of the first to realize his *precepts* by his own example.

During his mayoralty, and for several years before, Mr. Staines had been an inhabitant of Barbican, where he built a dwelling house adjoining the chapel of the Rev. J. Towers. About the year 1786, he began to put in execution the benevolent design of establishing some alms-houses, nine in number. These he built on both sides of Jacob's Well Passage, Barbican; not in the ancient manner which the facetious Tom Brown has styled Charity Pigeon-holes. Sir William Staines's alms-houses, on the contrary, cannot be distinguished from any other dwelling houses by any thing in their exterior. Neither does any stone in the front of them proclaim the poverty of the inhabitants, or that they were founded in such a year by such a one, &c. but the tenants of them have been in the first place Sir William's aged workmen, tradesmen, &c. several of whom Sir William had probably known personally as his neighbours*.

These alms-houses, though Sir William belongs to the Carpenters Company, we are told, he has put into the gift of the Parish of Cripplegate; and among the present in-

* One of these, who is since dead, we have heard, frequented the Jacob's Well, where Sir William was in the habit of smoking his pipe of an evening: this person failing in business, Sir William presented him with one of his alms-houses to live in. The poor man, after this happening to be at the house, and going into the kitchen instead of the parlour, Sir William appeared to be much offended at the distinction he made, and insisted upon his coming again into the room where he had usually sat with his benefactor, and assured him, that he had not bestowed that favour upon him to degrade, but to advance him in life, and would hear of no apologies on the subject.—In Yorkshire some similar institution has been formed under the auspices of Sir William.

habitants

habitants is a perruke-maker, whom we are also informed had shaved his worthy friend and patron during a period of forty-two years.

It is now about six months since Sir William Staines entirely left his town residence at Barbican, to go and reside at his country-house at Clapham Common; however, though he has removed from his poorer neighbours, he does not forget them. Sir William still occasionally visits and enquires after the health and circumstances of each of them individually, and with the same good humour and affability which has ever distinguished him both before and after his elevation in life. It should have been observed, that Sir William is the proprietor of the ground on which Mr. Towers's dwelling-house and chapel now stands, which forms a part of the revenue of these almshouses.—He also built the New Jacob's Well up the passage in Barbican.

It must have have been a singular source of happiness to Sir William, that in all his pious and humane efforts, he was never opposed by any of his family. His late lady, in particular, ever shewed a high degree of alacrity in seconding his views. In order to distinguish who were the proper objects of his bounty, she has not been averse to visiting some of the poorest habitations in and about Golden Lane and other places. And in the distribution of soup, &c. in winter, which Sir William was in the habit of bestowing four or five years before it became common, it was not his general rule to compel those who received it to fetch it from his house, and thus proclaim their humiliation to the censorious, and the world at large; but, to prevent this, his servants have been sent with his alms to the habitations of those who received them.—Still in this unusual flow of the purest benevolence, it is not pretended that the donor has met with no abuse in the conduct of those who received it: this, notwithstanding, never altered his character; his conduct still seemed to speak the lan-

guage of the celebrated Lady Falkland in the reign of Charles I. viz. "that she would rather relieve ten impostors, than one person truly deserving should go away empty handed."

Sir William, who has been twice married, is now a widower, has had ten children, and has two left at present; a daughter who is lame, and a son: his first son William, by his first wife, died many years ago of a consumptive habit, much regretted on account of his promising abilities in figures, and a capacity for the mathematics.

The late spouse of Sir William, who had been his servant, has been dead but a few months. This misfortune occurred at Clapham: her ladyship, however, was interred at Cripplegate church, the charity children singing at the burial: and on Saturday, August 14, the funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Gregory, his lordship's late chaplain, to a very crouded audience.

Sir William has not, though in the 71st year of his age, relinquished the character of a tradesman. His masons' yard, and his house at Millbank, Westminster, are still the objects of a part of his care. As a stone-mason upon a large scale, it may be supposed he has been engaged in some buildings of magnificence, something approximating to the gorgeous palaces and cloud-capped towers; humbler, but, perhaps, more useful dwellings, notwithstanding, still find a place in the heart of this true philanthropist, this general friend to mankind.

Sir William has a particular habit that we cannot pass over; he is so partial to smoking, that he is never without a pipe, as he always takes one of these organs of contemplation with him in his carriage: and so far is he from adhering to the modern notions of high life in amassing riches for indulgence in extreme luxury, or in heaping them up to be disposed of by others after his decease, that he has more prudently resolved to see to the dispensations of

of his alms during his own life time, with the pleasure of observing that his bounties are properly administered and watching their progress; as he has probably heard of chancery suits of forty years standing, without any application of the charity, consistent with the will of the donors. We have already made several allusions to Sir William's general affability and hospitality, and we can only conclude the character of this worthy magistrate by comparingit with thatof Sir Roger De Coverley, so admirably depicted in Addison's Spectator, and which the author intended as a perfect resemblance of that of an old English gentleman; for, unlike many others who have been intoxicated by promotion and the favours of fortune, Sir William has preserved an equanimity of character and disposition all through life.

In fact, without any particular profession, Sir William has uniformly put in practice one of the most difficult and excellent precepts of the Christian religion "*mind not high things but condescend to men of low estate.*"

Extraordinary CASE *of* ISABELLA WILSON.

[From Buchan's Duty of Mothers.]

ISABELLA WILSON was in early life a very promising child, and the object of her mother's idolatry. This good woman had no idea that health and beauty were more likely to be destroyed than improved or preserved by excessive care. In the choice of diet, clothes, exercise, &c. the delicacy of her sweet girl was always the ruling idea. It is easy, indeed, to render the human frame more delicate; but to make it more robust, requires a very different mode of proceeding.

As the child did not seem afflicted with any particular complaint, the doting mother exulted at the happy effects of her own management, and never thought that

the taper form, the fine limbs, and the languishing softness, which she so much admired, were the sure symptoms of debility, and of latent disease.

Isabella's mental improvement, in which she surpassed many other young girls of her age at the same school, was no less flattering to her mistaken parents. But she had scarcely attained her 14th year before the fond illusion vanished, and the regular functions of both mind and body were suspended by a fit of the most extraordinary nature. I cannot avoid making one remark here, which may be of great practical utility. It is, that fits, though they go by different names, and are ascribed to a great variety of causes, may all be ranked under the general appellation of nervous affections, and are almost always the consequence of bad nursing, or injudicious treatment in childhood. Few children, properly nursed, have fits; and of those who are improperly managed, few escape them. Poor Bell Wilson was one of the unfortunate class.

On my being sent for to attend this young woman, who was then 16, I was informed that she had been subject to fits for about three years, and had taken a great deal of medicine by the advice of several of the Faculty, but without having experienced any benefit. Though the person who gave me this account made use of the word fits, I soon found that, strictly speaking, it was only one fit, that assumed two different forms or states, which followed one another in constant succession during the whole of the above period.

In order to give a precise idea of this singular kind of fit, I shall call its first state *active*, and the second *passive*. During the former, the young woman made use of the most violent exertions, springing up, throwing her arms about, and striking them against every thing which came within her reach, at the same time, she uttered a

cry;

sort of noise, consisting of three notes, which was more like the cry of some wild beast than any thing human.

An universal spasm succeeded those strange agitations, and every limb became as stiff and inflexible as if it had been suddenly petrified. Her whole appearance was that of a statue made of Parian marble. In this state of rigidity she continued sometimes for one hour, sometimes two, and often three or four; but the moment it was over, she began with the cry and motion above described.

The active convulsion never lasted so long as the rigid state; but it was the only time at which any thing could be got down her throat. As she would not admit substances of the least solidity into her mouth, the little nutriment which she received was always given in a fluid form, and chiefly consisted of small-beer, or wine and water. Her evacuations, either by stool or urine, were of course very trifling, and she was wholly insensible of both. Notwithstanding the thinness of her diet, she did not appear emaciated or sickly; on the contrary, she was tolerably well in flesh, and her countenance, though quite void of colour, was rather pleasing. Her figure was exquisitely fine, the disease did not appear to have prevented her growth in height, though it had in strength, and in bulk or expansion; she was very slender, but as tall as most young women of the same age. Such were the most striking peculiarities of her situation when I paid my first visit.

As all the voluntary motions were suspended, and the involuntary alone took place, I thought that by exciting the former I might suppress the latter, which had so long agitated the system. But before I had recourse to stimulants, I was induced, by the tone of confidence with which I had often heard anodynes and antispasmodicks spoken of by professional men of eminence, to try them first: but the experiment, though fairly made, and duly perse-

persevered in, was not attended with the least success.—And here I must observe, that, after forty years farther practice, I have never found the effect of antispasmodicks in such cases to correspond with the high reputation which they long retained in the medical world. I know it has been the usual method, when the actions of the system appear to be inverted, to employ this class of medicines, in order to restore regularity, and to take off the supposed spasm. I am far from being inclined to question the veracity of the favourable reports made by others of the issue of their experiments; I candidly state the result of my own, which has wholly destroyed my reliance on that mode of proceeding.

After the failure of the above attempts, in which I was more guided by the example of others than by the dictates of my own mind, I resolved to try the effect of irritation on the most sensible parts, which were often rubbed with æther, and other volatile spirits. I prescribed at the same time the internal use of tonicks, particularly chalybeated wine, and the compound tincture of bark.* Appearances soon became favourable: but as the change for the better was slow, the parents were persuaded by somebody to try the cold bath; and this rash step proved almost fatal to my hopes, and to their fondest wishes.

The reader should be informed, that the astonishing singularity of the girl's disorder had filled the minds of the country people all around with the wildest and most superstitious conjectures. The general opinion was, that the complaint must be owing to evil spirits, and that the girl was certainly possessed. Some were for putting her into water, where they were sure she would swim. Others

* I have here omitted the detail of doses and effects, usually given in medical cases, as I am not writing instructions for the treatment of diseases, but cautions to mothers' concerning the nursing of their children.

said

said that, if she was laid upon the fire, she would undoubtedly fly up the chimney. One bold Captain of horse, a man of more resolution than intellect, declared his readiness to expel the foul fiend by shooting the girl, if the parents would give him leave. Her mother, who was not deficient in natural good sense, though in the education of her daughter she had suffered her fondness to get the better of her understanding, paid no regard to such absurd and ridiculous proposals; but she yielded to the importunities of a friend, who had described to her with great earnestness and plausibility the wonderful effects of the cold bath.

A single immersion convinced the parents of their dangerous error. All the symptoms were aggravated in the most alarming manner. The duration of the rigid state of the body was extended from a few hours to eleven days. She would then have been buried, had I not positively forbidden her mother, whatever might happen, to have her interred, till I should give my assent. At the time of this last attack I was upon a journey to a distant part of the country. On my return home, I was told that my patient was dead; but that her burial had been delayed till I should see her. When I called, I found her to all appearance what the people had described her, a lifeless corpse.—On examining the body, however, I thought I perceived some degree of warmth about the region of the heart. This confirmed me in my previous design to make every attempt to restore animation. It was a considerable time before any symptoms of life appeared; at length, the girl set up her old cry, and began to throw her arms about as usual.

After having so far succeeded, the parents implicitly followed my farther directions, and did not throw any new obstacle in the way of a cure. I again had recourse to the tonicks before mentioned, with such nourishment as the

the girl could be brought to swallow. The violence of the convulsive motions gradually abated, and the duration of the rigid state of the fit grew shorter and shorter; till, in about six months, the whole ceased, and the regular and natural actions of the system returned.

The state of this girl's mind, as well as of her body, on her recovery, was as extraordinary as her disease. It is common to all persons, who fall into fits, to have no remembrance of what happens during the paroxysm. This young woman not only was insensible of every occurrence and of the progress of time during her long fit, but her malady had completely blotted out all recollection of every event before that period, and even the traces of all knowledge which she had acquired from the moment of her birth to her illness. I have indeed known a single fit of 24 hour's duration to destroy the powers of the mind, and produce absolute idiotism; but that was not the case here. The mental faculties, after a total suspension for four years, were not destroyed, but reduced to an infant state; and, though void of knowledge, were as capable of acquiring it as ever.

It was just the same with regard to speech, and to the proper management of the legs and arms, of which she knew as little at the time of her recovery as at the instant of her birth. Nothing could be more curious than to hear her lisping for some months the *namby pamby* of a child, and to trace her progress in the imitation of sounds, and the use of language. As soon as she could converse, she was told how long she had been ill; she cried, but could not believe it. When some books, which she had written at school, were shewn to her, she thought it impossible they could be her's, and was positive that the whole must be a mockery. In the course of time she yielded to the concurrent testimony of others; but she remained unconscious of any former state of existence.

Her

Her new attempts to walk, were as awkward as her attempts to speak; and she required nearly as much time to recover the perfect use of her legs as of her tongue. Even after she had acquired a considerable degree of strength, she wanted expertness in her motions, and was obliged to be led about by the arms like a baby. Whenever I called to see her, I made a point of taking her into the garden to walk with me; but it was with great difficulty that I could prevent her from falling. We often lament the weakness of infancy; yet were we to come full grown into the world, we should not only be as long in learning to walk as infants are, but our first essays would be infinitely more dangerous.

It is unnecessary to trace any farther the steps by which this young woman advanced to the full re-establishment of her health, and to the perfect use of all her mental and corporeal faculties. These great ends were gained by a mode of treatment the very reverse of the enervating plan which had been the cause of her long sufferings; but which, happily for her, was not afterwards resumed.

I shall leave tender parents to make their own reflections on this case, and shall now only urge it as a farther caution against the too hasty interment of persons who may seem to expire in a fit. Unequivocal proofs of death should always be waited for, and every adviseable means of resuscitation persevered in, when we consider how long appearances may be deceitful, and how unexpectedly the latent sparks of life may be rekindled.

Besides the uncommon instance of this young woman's reanimation, as it may be called, I have heard of a young lady in Holland, who was restored to her desponding friends, after she had been for nine days apparently in a state of death. The day before her proposed interment, her Doctor called to take his final leave of her; but fancying that he perceived some vital symptom, he renewed

his before hopeless efforts, and had the happiness to succeed. This girl's case differed from that of my patient in one very remarkable particular.—I am told, that in her seemingly inanimate state, she was all the while perfectly conscious of being alive, though she could not stir, nor speak, and that her only terror was lest she should be buried alive.

SINGULAR PRODUCTIONS OF NATURE.

On the 7th of October 1803, an Aurora Borealis was seen at Errol in Scotland, between eleven and twelve at night, of most brilliant appearance :—not only were there a great number of bright and vast columns perpendicular to the horizon, but all the atmosphere in the Northern quarter of the heavens, was covered with one continued gleam of lightning.

A Cucumber, lately cut in the garden of C. Wilson, Esq. of Empsall, weighed $5\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. and measured $30\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and 14 inches in circumference.

A Potatoe was dug up last month in a garden, belonging to Mr. David Knight, Brewer, at Arbroath, in Scotland, of most extraordinary size; its largest circumference 19 inches, the least 17 inches; it weighed two pounds nine ounces: it is the kind known there by the name of American Tartar.—There were nine other potatoes at the same stem, weighing on an average, sixteen ounces each.

A Turnip.—Mr. Mutch, at Murtle, (Dee-side,) pulled one up on his farm, the beginning of October, weighing eighteen pounds.

Full and authentic Account of Mary Squires *and* Eliz. Canning, *concluded from page* 397.

The evidence of George Squires, the gipsy's son, was peculiarly diverting.—He could give a particular account of every house they called at on their journey from South Perrot

Perrot to London, and even recollected that they had two fowls for dinner at Litton, in Wilts,—who they were bought of, &c.; and, to the observation of the counsel, that it was perhaps an extraordinary dinner, he said No, they had fowls very often.—His manner and acuteness also made the counsel observe, that he was by no means a person of weak capacity, as had been represented.—However, being called upon to give an account of another journey into Sussex, previous to the former jaunt, he could not, or would not tell the name of the place, nor those of many others which he had passed through. In fact, in the course of an examination of two hours, he would own to nothing that could tend in the least degree to the crimination of his mother.

It was also expected that Lucy Squires, his sister, would have been called in by the counsel for the prosecution; and though it was strongly urged by the other counsel, she was not called upon for any evidence. After a variety of examination was gone through, to prove the absence of Mary Squires, at the time Canning swore she robbed her, the Court proposed an adjournment to the 1st of May, which was over-ruled. The prosecutor's counsel desired that E. Canning should be delivered into custody of the keeper of Newgate; but this was warmly spoke against by the defendant's counsel, so that it was at last agreed that she should be admitted to bail; accordingly her former bail entered into a fresh recognizance.—The girl was then put into a coach as privately as possible; but the populace finding it out, hung upon and followed it with the loudest huzzas and shoutings to an house in the Old Bailey, where she went to, and they staid about the door huzzaing till eleven o'clock; when they had retired, she went home. Some of the most vulgar of the populace were so audacious as to insult Sir Crisp Gascoigne, as he was coming out of the Sessions-House; which one of the

friends of Canning happening to see, he immediately pushed in among them, and rescued him from their hands. Her friends were very much grieved at this outrage, and the next day had hand-bills printed, disclaiming the fact, which they got delivered at night to the crowd that was assembled in the Sessions-House-Yard.

Notwithstanding this, the friends of Canning were charged with being the encouragers of these insults, though they did every thing in their power to prevent them. The greatest care was taken that could be, that the girl should go to and come from the Sessions-House privately, to avoid any huzzaing; and she was put into different dresses, and went out at private doors, and sometimes windows, that the people waiting about the house might not know any thing of her going out.

On Wednesday the Court met again, according to adjournment; when it was informed, in a very moving and pathetic manner, of the great danger Sir Crisp Gascoigne had been in from the mob on the Monday night before; and the Court was moved that a guard might be appointed for the security of his person, when he went from the Sessions-House at nights.—The jury likewise fearing for themselves, moved that a guard might be allowed to them. The recorder then set forth in a very eloquent speech, the insolence and ill consequences of such proceedings; that the magistracy of the city of London were too respectable a body to be thus insulted by a mob; that himself too had met with some insults; but he would have them to know, that the magistracy were not to be terrified; that they would go to the bottom of it; that whoever was concerned, let them look to it. The counsel for the defendant then arose, and told the Court that he would venture to say that none of the friends of his client were concerned in any thing of this sort; but supposing even that their zeal had carried some of them too far, yet it ought not to prejudice his

his client, who could have no hand in it; therefore he hoped the jury would not let their minds be prejudiced against her by any thing that an outrageous mob (who followed nothing but the dictates of passion) had done, or should do, during the course of the trial:—That on the part of his client, he had a complaint to make of no less an outrage done to her, which was shameful to the highest degree, and might be of the worst consequence to her.—He then read a paragraph in the newspaper of the day before, wherein the defendant was spoken of in a very virulent manner:—the insults given Sir Crisp Gascoigne, attributed to her or her friends, with an intent to obstruct justice.—He observed, that to publish such a paragraph during the course of the trial, was doing as much as could be done to bias and prepossess the jury against the defendant, and therefore cruel to the highest degree, unjust and illegal.—The Court agreed with him in this, and recommended an information to be laid against the printer of the paper.—After this, they proceeded to business; and Mr. Alderman Chitty repeated the story told by E. Canning, when he took her deposition at Guildhall, and made remarks upon a number of inconsistencies which he observed in it.

Mr. Gawen Nash confirmed these observations, especially Canning's then saying she was confined in a small dark room.—He had been at Mother Wells's with several friends, and seen the room.—He also gave Eliz. Canning and her mother a good character, for decency, sobriety, &c.—He then clearly proved that the room, and things in it, did not at all agree with E. Canning's description of it. He further related, that when E. Canning was first taken down to the house at Enfield, to swear to the persons that had robbed her, she was taken out of the chaise in the arms of a man, and carried into Mother Wells's kitchen, where she was set upon the dresser for about four or five minutes; that the door of the loft was then open; that afterwards she

she sat upon a stool in the middle of the house, for near twenty minutes, the door of the loft remaining all the while open; that when she was carried into the parlour, where there were many people, in order for her to pitch upon the person who cut off her stays, the gipsy sat on the right-hand side, and Mother Wells on the left; that as soon as Canning came in, she fixed on the gipsy, and said, *That was the woman;* that he could not then see the gipsy's face, and cannot tell whether Canning could.—And when Squires's daughter told her mother that she was fixed upon as the person who had robbed Canning; she then got up, and came across the room to Canning, saying, *Madam, do you say I robbed you?—Look at this face, and if you have ever seen it before, you must remember it, for I believe that God Almighty never made such another.* When Canning told her when it was, she said, *Lord, Madam! I was* 120 *miles off at that time:*—He asked her where she was, she said, at Abbotsbury in Dorsetshire, and that she could bring an hundred people to prove it, who had known her thirty or forty years.—That there were people in the room, who said, *Lord! she has been here but a very little while;* and that there was a woman called Natus, who said she had been in the house ten or eleven weeks, and that the gipsy had been there but a little while, and that she had never seen Elizabeth Canning there before.

After this, Canning was led to see the place of her confinement, and carried into several rooms, then into the loft; she said, she believed that was the room. Being asked what she remembered in the room, she turning about to the left hand, said, she remembered it by that hay, but said there was more added to it. Being asked then what else she remembered, and a pitcher being taken up from the ground, she said, *That is the jug I drank my water out of.* Then a gentleman took up a tobacco mould, and asked her if she remembered that?—

She

She said, she did:—Another gentleman asked her, what else she remembered, and if there were any saddles in the room?—She said, she believed there might be one, but she did not remember any thing of a nest of drawers.—Being asked why she did not escape out of the East window, she said, she did not know but it was fast.

The conclusion of Mr. Nash's evidence was, That from that very time he thought Canning an impostor, or else greatly deceived, and that he had given up espousing her cause from that very day.—He was asked this three or four times, and replied, that from that very hour he had left having any thing to do in her favour; that he had often declared the same as he had deposed now, in common conversation. Being asked how he came not to declare this upon the trial of the gipsy, he said, he was present at part of the trial, but being butler to the Goldsmiths' Company, and having a great dinner to get for them that day, he left the Old Bailey by eleven o'clock; and that though he was a little discontented at the evidence of Canning, yet he thought the gipsy would not have been convicted, and if he had thought so, he would have staid and given the same evidence as he had done now; that soon after he heard Mary Squires was respited, he went voluntarily to the Lord Mayor, being dissatisfied in his own mind, and told him he could let him into the whole affair.

Mr. Hague and Mr. Aldrich gave much the same account as Mr. Nash, only they said there were marks of some lock or fastening to the door which led to the loft where Canning was confined, and a sort of ledge or pent-house under the window, from whence she said she got out.—Both said they dropped Canning's cause from that time. Being asked, they both owned they were at the trial of the gipsy, and gave the reasons why they did not then give evidence, to save the life of a woman whom they thought wrongfully accused:—One said, he was so shocked at

at it, that he had not power to speak any thing about it, though he staid all the trial, which lasted some hours; the other said, he was engaged to dine with a gentleman in Smithfield, therefore left the Sessions-House before the trial was quite finished.

The next witness called, was Fortune Natus, who deposed, That he and his wife lay in that very room during the time Canning says she was confined there;—says, when they came there, there was half a load of hay in the room, which room he says was called the work-shop; that his bed was made of hay and straw, and his bolster was a sack of wool; there was no grate in the room; that there was a nest of drawers and two or three side-saddles, a man's saddle, a large drawer with some pollard, a tub, an old gun, &c. &c.

Judith Natus, wife to Fortune Natus, gave much the same account as he had done.—She seemed to forget several things which her husband said was in the room, and recollected others, never mentioned before, particularly a parcel of pan-tiles.

Sarah Howell, daughter to Mother Wells, deposed, That she was there every day during the month of January.—She said, that Vertue Hall went as often into the hay-loft as she did; and that upon the 8th of January, Edward Allen, Giles Knight, and John Larney, lopped the trees which were over against the window; and that Vertue Hall and herself were at the window at that time; that she opened the casement herself, and it opened very easy.

John Larney, Giles Knight, and Edward Allen, gave an account of their lopping the trees on the 8th of January, that stood just against the window of the room in which Canning said she was confined, and talked to Sarah Howell and Vertue Hall the time they were looking out at the window of the hay-loft.

John

John Howell deposed, He lived at Enfield Wash, and was son to Mother Wells; that he was in the work-shop on the 19th, 20th, and 21st of January; he said, his mother had sent him there on these days to fetch pollard to feed the sow and pigs, and that Fortune Natus and his wife were the only people that were in that room.—He says, he attended the trial of Squires, but the mob would not suffer him to come in, and that he was forced to go away.

Mr. Deputy Molineaux deposed, That he happened to be with the late Lord Mayor (after Mary Squires was convicted) when Canning and Vertue Hall were brought to be examined; and that, after my Lord Mayor had examined Vertue Hall, her answer was, she had nothing to say at that time:—He says, the pitcher and bed-gown were produced; that Canning took up the gown, to take it away; when my Lord Mayor said, *No, you must not take it away;* that then she said, *It is my mother's.* This, he says, surprised him a great deal; because, on the trial of Squires, she said, she took it out of the grate in the room where she said she was confined.

The counsel for the prosecution having gone through these witnesses, rested it.

The counsel for the defendant then rose up, and made a very strong and sensible speech; in which he observed, That his client, after suffering to an uncommon degree, by being almost starved to death, was now brought to a trial for *Wilful and corrupt Perjury;* that he had seen with some surprise, the counsel for the prosecution challenging no less than sixteen of the jury; that he believed, except in cases of treason, that there had never been an instance before of a prosecutor challenging sixteen of the jury out of twenty-four; however, he was very well pleased with it, as he hoped, after this, that the prosecutor, if a verdict was given against him, would remain

satisfied that justice had been done him.—He then observed, that he thought nothing amounting to a positive proof had been brought against his client, and that where a case was doubtful, the law always inclined to the merciful side.—That he did not suppose that the witnesses who had sworn to the gipsy's being at Abbotsbury at the time, had wilfully perjured themselves; but that the alteration of the style just at that time, it was well known had greatly confounded the people, and that even to this day, it was usual with us to say (talking of the seasons, &c.) that it is only such a day of the month, according as we used to reckon; that this custom of reckoning by two different computations or styles, necessarily would puzzle any one in fixing some months after on the particular time on which any thing happened; that the gipsy was really at Abbotsbury, near about the time in question, he did suppose; but the question was, whether it was at that particular time.—He then spoke to the possibility of Canning's story, and even the probability of it, considering all the circumstances that attended it.—He observed, that what his brother counsel on the other side had said, that villains and robbers would never do mischief merely for the sake of doing it, frequent experience contradicted.—As to the improbability, which he had observed, of no one passing by to see Bedlam at the time the girl was stopt and robbed; he must in reply say, that if his brother counsel had taken it in his head to go and see Bedlam at such an unseasonable time, between the hours of nine and ten at night, that he should not have been surprised had the keeper taken and locked him up among the mad people he came to see.—He next urged strongly, that notwithstanding all the extraordinary pains that had been taken, they had not been able to prove in the least that the girl was in any other place than where she had sworn she was.—"What! (says he) could a poor ignorant girl, without money, without

without friends, have the art and means to conceal herself a whole month, undiscovered by any one, to lie-in, or to be salivated, as has been said?—Strange! and incredible is it, that neither midwife, nurse, or surgeon, under whose care she was, should have blabbed nothing in all this time! It is well known that ladies of the greatest fortune, that have money to buy silence, yet cannot purchase secresy on these occasions, but their miscarriages of this kind will get abroad; and yet not a single syllable, for the space of sixteen months, has come out to prove Canning's being in any other place whatsoever than the house of Mother Wells."—He next observed, That it was contrary to nature for people to become desperately wicked and inhuman all at once; that it was always by degrees, and step by step, that people arrived to the height of wickedness; but that the defendant's character was proved to be blameless and irreproachable in every respect till the very hour of this affair:—Modesty, sobriety, industry, and good-nature, were her characteristics; and therefore it was quite incredible, that all of a sudden she should become wicked enough to invent such a story, and to be guilty of the vilest perjury and most pre-meditated murder, by wilfully and deliberately swearing away the life of an innocent person.—It has been reported (said he) that the whole was a contrivance between her and her mother, to get money by the contributions of the humane and charitable; but it was not a thing to be believed, that any person would on purpose reduce themselves to the deplorable and miserable condition, which it was known, beyond all doubt, that Canning was in, even to within a hair's breadth of death, upon the uncertain hopes of getting a little money:—It was even a contradiction to reason and common sense, that any one would, for the sake of getting money, reduce themselves to so desperate a condition, as to leave little hopes of living to receive it, &c. &c.

After the counsel had finished their speeches, the witnesses for the defendant were called, chiefly consisting of her mother's friends, who generally spoke of her former character, and her behaviour after she came home.

James Lord, apprentice to Mrs. Canning, deposed to Elizabeth Canning's being missed, the great concern his mistress was in on that account, and that when she returned, his mistress was at prayers for her daughter's return; that when she came to the door, he did not at first know her, nor till she spoke, she was in such a deplorable condition; that his mistress fell in a fit upon it; that she had a bit of handkerchief over her head, and an old jacket on, and that she was a very sober girl.

Mr. Backler, an apothecary in Aldermanbury, deposed, He was applied to by the girl's mother, and went to her on the 30th of January; he found her extremely low, and could scarcely hear her speak, with cold clammy sweats in her bed; she complained of being very faint and sick, and of pains in her bowels, and of having been costive the whole time of her confinement.—He ordered her a purging medicine, but her stomach was too weak for it, and could not bear it; he then ordered her a glyster that evening, and on the 3d of February another; the latter had some little effect:—He ordered her another on the 5th; that had no effect at all; and, she continuing very bad, and in great danger, Dr. Eaton was sent for on the 6th:—He wrote prescriptions for her for fourteen days, of diuretic and gentle cathartic medicines; that she was tolerably well in about a month. When she was at the worst, her face was remarkable, her colour quite gone, her arms of a livid colour spotted; and that when he heard she was gone to Enfield Wash, when the people were taken up, he thought her not able to perform the journey, and thought it extremely improper for her to undertake it, she being very much emaciated and wasted.

Robert

Robert Beals, who is one that attends the turnpike at Stamford Hill, deposed, That, at the beginning of January, as he was standing by the gate at near eleven at night, he heard a sobbing and crying on the road; it came from towards Newington, and drew nearer and nearer; at last he perceived it was two men and a young person, seemingly by her crying; one said, *Come along, you b—h, you are drunk:* the other said, *How drunk the b—h is!* and made a sort of a laugh; but she seemed unwilling to go. By his light he could see them, one got over the style, and the other laid hold of one of her legs, or both, and lifted them over, so that she came down upright; she hung back and fell on her breech on the step of the style, and set out a fresh cry bitterly, as though she would go no further; that he went nearer them, expecting she would speak to him; but there being two men, and he alone, he did not think it safe to interpose; that the one pulled her, and the other jostled her along, and so they took her out of sight towards Enfield.

Thomas Bennet deposed, He lives at Enfield, near the ten miles stone; and on the 29th of January 1753, between four and five in the afternoon, between Mother Wells's and his own house, he saw a miserable poor wretch coming along, without either gown, stays, cap, hat, or apron on, only a dirty thing, like half a handkerchief, over her head, and a piece of something on, that reached down just below her waist, with her hands lying together before her; she asked him the way to London.

David Dyer deposed, He lived at Enfield Wash; that about a quarter of a mile from Mother Wells's house, towards London, at four in the afternoon, three evenings before Mother Wells and her family were taken up, he saw a poor distressed creature pass by him, out of the common field; he said to her, *Sweetheart, do you want a husband?* She made no answer; she had a thing tied over

over her head like a white handkerchief, walking with her hands before her, very faintly, and was a shortish woman, with a shortish sort of a thing on, it did not come very low on her; that he looked at her face as she passed him, and said (upon looking upon Elizabeth Canning) he takes her to be the same person.—And several other witnesses testified to the same effect, of seeing her that day.

After this, a number of witnesses living about Enfield, proved that Mary Squires had been there about Christmas, and in January; but they did not agree in the exact dates.

The counsel for the prosecution said, He was to tell the jury from the prosecutor, that he had nothing against her exclusive of that fact.

After all the witnesses were examined, the recorder summed up the evidence on both sides, which took up about two hours; it being then twelve o'clock at night, of Tuesday May 6th, the jury withdrew, and after being out upwards of two hours, brought in their verdict in writing, GUILTY OF PERJURY, *but not wilful or corrupt*;—but the Court telling them, that their verdict must be either Guilty, or Not Guilty, they again withdrew, and in a short time after, brought her in Guilty, but recommended her to the mercy of the Court; upon which she was immediately committed to Newgate.

Thus ended this very remarkable trial, after having lasted eight days; and it is allowed by all, was the most extraordinary one that ever came before any Court in this Kingdom. Her sentence was respited till the next sessions, which began May the 13th:—In the mean time, two of the jury who tried her, made an affidavit that they did not mean by their verdict, to bring her in Guilty of Wilful and Corrupt Perjury. When the Sessions began, one of the King's Counsel moved the Court for an arrest of judgment, or a new trial, and argued very strongly for it; but this was over-ruled, and the Court proceeded to pass

sentence,

sentence:—But, differing in their opinions what this should be, they divided, when eight of them were for only laying a small pecuniary fine on her, and nine for a month's imprisonment, and at the expiration thereof, to be transported to some of his Majesty's plantations for seven years:—Thus, by a majority of one *only*, the severer sentence took place.

It is necessary to remark here, that when the jury brought in their first verdict, there was a loud shout among the people; but when they brought in a verdict *Guilty of the Indictment*, there was a remarkable silence. The conclusion of this affair was, that till Elizabeth Canning was removed out of the country by transportation, the newspapers were still crowded with essays, paragraphs, &c. for, and against the justice of her sentence. One party insisting upon her innocence, the other upon her guilt. Some dwelt upon the depravity of the gipsy, others upon the poverty of E. Canning and her mother. Even affidavits were made, and printed on both sides. However, all these things did not hinder large subscriptions being carried on, for her support; and, as we before observed, she was in a situation, after leaving the country, to attract the notice of an opulent Quaker in America, whom she married.—In fact, the public opinion, though principally expressed by people of the middling classes, had assumed such a degree of energy, that Sir Crisp Gascoigne, the Lord Mayor, paying a proper deference to his constituents and fellow-citizens, thought proper to publish an Address to the Liverymen on the subject; in which he was very earnest to clear himself of any want of candour, in the part he had espoused respecting E. Canning; and with Sir C. Gascoigne's reasons for his conduct, the public seemed well satisfied.

OBITUARY OF REMARKABLE CHARACTERS.

THOMAS CLARKE, died lately in his miserable hut, opposite the Red Lion Inn on Old Down, near Bath, in the 99th year of his age. Upwards of half a century he had resided in this miserable situation; and though for nearly ten years he had been confined to a pallet of straw, with no covering but a single rug, he never could be prevailed upon to quit it, or to receive the least degree of parochial assistance, for fear that he might be forced to give up his hut, which he deemed a kind of freehold, and in which it seems he had been originally placed by the person who then rented Barrack Farm, and with whom old Clarke had worked as a labourer.

As a companion to the above, we give the following, upon the credit of a country paper, of the beginning of the present month :—

Lately died, in the parish of Breague, in South Wales, at the advanced age of 80, Mr. J. Rogers, of most eccentric manners; he had not been shaved since last Easter.—His usual practice was to go into the sea for the benefit of his health, and when in want of food, was accustomed to lie on his back, and suck the goats in the open fields; and when he was seen going to market, he always had a sack on his shoulder, containing his money, for his attorney to lay out at interest; he left much property.

CURIOSITIES IN NORTH AMERICA.

TWO miles west of New Haven, is a mountain; on the top of which is a cave, remarkable for having been the residence of Generals Whaley and Goffe, two of the judges of Charles the First, who was beheaded.—They arrived at Boston, July the 27th, 1760, and came to New Haven the March following.—May the 11th, 1661, they retired and



Nathaniel Bentley Esq.

The remarkable Dwarf Hardware Merchant of Leadenhall Street

and concealed themselves behind West Mountain, three miles from New Haven; and the 19th of August they removed to Milford, where they lived concealed until the 13th of October 1664, when they returned to New Haven, and immediately proceeded to Hadley, where they remained concealed for about ten years; in which time Whaley died, and Goffe soon after abdicated. In 1665, John Dixwell, Esq. another of the king's judges, visited them while at Hadley, and afterwards proceeded to New Haven, where he lived many years, and was known by the name of John Davis.—Here he died, and was buried in the burying-place, where his grave-stone is standing to this day, with this inscription,

J. D. Esq. deceased March 18th,
in the 82d Year of his Age, 1688.

New and complete Memoirs of NATHANIEL BENTLEY, ESQ. *the Eccentric Inhabitant of the Dirty Warehouse in Leadenhall Street.—Down to the present Time.*

THE great variety of censure, observation and remark, that has been bestowed upon this singular character, in the public prints, &c. might have been thought by some persons to have some effect upon Mr. BENTLEY, in reclaiming him from his peculiarities, or altering his course of life; but this is far from being the case, the house may, but the inhabitant is not to be *changed!* Accordingly, the building having remained near twenty years, the wonder of almost every spectator, through its dirty and decaying appearance, it is now putting into a state of repair, as it were, perforce. Mr BENTLEY, it seems, having long withstood every kind of persuasion and remonstrance, against its continuance in that state, and to no manner of purpose, in altering his inflexibility; but as the surveyor informed him, that the expences for the repairs would be about £200, to avoid any legal discussion on the subject of dilapidations, Mr. BENTLEY, without ceremony, paid down the sum demanded for the repairs, telling the gentlemen to go and get what they pleased to eat and drink, and he would pay for it; these repairs are now going on, much to the surprise of people, who are unacquainted with the causes of an apparent change, so sudden and unexpected.

It might naturally be imagined, that while the house of Mr. Bentley was repairing, he had left it, both for his own convenience and for that of the workmen; no such thing.—His shop, though all the rest of the house were in ruins, he seems determined not to quit.—He is at least resolved this shall be the last part of his spacious premises, in which the spiders will undergo any disturbance.—A perfect enemy to all reforms whatever, he does not even suffer the labourers to enter the ground-floor, but compels them to descend into the cellar through its window, and go up to the top and other parts, by a ladder raised against the front, without interrupting his business on the ground-floor.—What he intends to do when every other apartment, the shop excepted, has undergone the proposed repairs, is not yet apparent.—But, to preserve the memory of the house in its former state, a representation of it will be found in this Number.

This house and shop, near the East India House, Mr. Bentley has occupied ever since 1764.—In fact, it was inhabited by his father, who had the shop glazed, and certainly it was the first glazed hard-ware shop in London.—Mr. Nathaniel Bentley's frugality and parsimony, it seems, are hereditary endowments.—His father possessed considerable property in houses at Islington, and died there in 1760; his wife, a lady of great fortune also, died there in 1764, and left £5000 to the fund for the support of the widows and orphans of dissenting ministers; £100 to a dissenting minister at Kingston upon Thames; and £1000 to St. Thomas's Hospital.—When Mr. Bentley the elder, married this lady, he immediately laid aside the use of his own coach, and made use of her's.—To the Church of St. Catherine Cree, in which parish he had lived, he left a bell, on condition that a peal should be rung on his birth-day as long as he lived.—This bell bears the name of the donor, and those of Eastern and Peck, the makers, with the

the date of the year 1754. Mr. Bentley became a Dissenter in the decline of his life, and had a country-house at Edmonton, before he married.—Mr. Nathaniel Bentley succeeding to his father's stock and trade, immediately after his death, at first intended to dispose of them with the lease of the house, &c. to a Mr. Bliss, of Pall Mall; but as he could not obtain the whole of the money down, and paid no regard to good security, though offered; in 1764, after altering the front of his shops, two of which he threw into one, he set out for Paris.

It is said, that in the early part of Mr. Bentley's life, he was such a professed beau and man of fashion, that he made two journies to Paris; in the last of which he was introduced to Lewis XVI.—when he left a Mr. Holiday to take care of his business, at the enormous salary of ten shillings and six-pence per week: he being a cleanly and industrious man, placed every article in proper order, little thinking that would be the last time some of them would ever be cleaned or dusted; at other times, during his absence, his shop has been committed to the care of persons he thought he could trust; and when he came back, making use of his customary nonchalance, he has paid their demands, without asking for any vouchers, observing, "he was most likely to have the truest accounts by having none."

He has frequently appeared at masquerades some years ago, but never, we believe, in character; and it is reported, that so lately as August 12, 1802, the Prince of Wales's birth-day, he made his appearance at the grand Gala at Vauxhall.—It has been said, that when he meets ladies, especially of his acquaintance, he is extremely liberal; but this does not appear probable, no more than that such a man so nearly attached to slovenliness, in his general appearance and manner of living, should be able to form connections with any females of elegant habits, or

of any high reputation in life and character; he is, however, very fond of the company of females, when at places of amusement.

As one reason why he is seldom or ever fit to be seen, it is said, that the moment he comes home from any place of entertainment, his costly attire is thrown aside for his shop cloathing, which he mends himself.—It is also reported, that he makes no secret of washing and mending his own linen, and that he purchases his shoes at Rag Fair.

In mild weather, probably to save his coat from the nails, &c. he attends his shop in his shirt sleeves; and as his face, his waistcoat, shirt, breeches, &c. are all of one colour, his personal appearance, and that of his warehouse, exactly correspond.—Lately, when going out upon any particular business, he wears a fustian coat and cocked hat, though he has recently been seen in a round one, and an old great coat.—It is further understood, that in consequence of his shewing himself at a front window, just before he goes out, the people in the neighbourhood never fail ranging themselves opposite his house, and waiting till he comes down.—The same is done by the passengers on an evening when he comes out to shut up his shop, a ceremony generally attended with much desultory remark and loud peals of laughter.—But now as he seldom goes out full-dressed, he is not under the embarrassment which he used to sustain on such occasions, from the curiosity of the crowd.—Before the powder tax was introduced, Mr. B. frequently paid a shilling for dressing that head, which of late years, he scarcely seems to think worthy of a comb! It is said, that being once asked six-pence for a powder-puff, he went home in a rage, being asked so much, and made use of a dried wing of a goose, or an old stocking.

One time it is related, that to deceive the people just as he was going out, he put a candle in the window to keep them in expectation, and then slipped out the back way unperceived;

unperceived; and, no doubt, highly enjoying their mortification at the disappointment.

The front of his house being changed from that of white plaster to a dingy black, with various cracks, before the present repairs commenced, would have beggared all comparison, excepting the inside of a common shore.—The broken windows, not one in his shop remaining whole, and window shutters also, some of them unopened for many years, cut a most forlorn figure, the many vacancies being stopped up with japanned waiters, tea trays, box lids, &c. —That these things should not be stolen, Mr. Bentley always took care to chain them to the window frames.—And when his neighbours have offered to defray the expence of painting and white washing his house, he is said to have thanked them for their kind offer, observing he could not accept of it, as any repairs would spoil his trade with the Levant, where his house is best known by the name of the Dirty Warehouse of Leadenhall Street.

The story of a blue room in his house, is thought to have been set on foot by himself, merely to stop the enquiries of those who have been in the habit of teazing him about his peculiarities, and the reasons of them.

Many are the reports abroad, concerning his inconceivable civility, and his manner of attending to the ladies, when they honour him with their commands, particularly by his opposite neighbours.—It has been also related, that several curious females have come to town from various parts of the country, on purpose to see him.

And such has been his celebrity, that himself and his house were represented in a pantomime in the summer of 1803, at the Royal Circus.—In addition to his other singularities, it should have been noticed, that on the late Election for Middlesex, he refused his vote to every application; and, as it is said, having never taken an oath, and yet not willing to be deemed a Quaker, he made his

great

great hurry of business and want of time, an excuse for his conduct.

With respect to the real origin of the story of his sealed or secret room, in the house in Leadenhall-street, it is reported, and it is said by himself, that being many years since engaged to marry a young lady, previous to the performance of the ceremony, he invited her, and several of her relatives, to partake of a sumptuous entertainment.—In this sealed room he awaited their arrival, with much impatience, as at length, instead of the lady, a messenger arrived with the news of her death.—This unexpected event had such an effect upon him, that he closed up the room, with the resolution that it should never be opened; and that there was a room in the house shut up, is not doubted, as some of the windows appear to prove it.—Some persons have assured us, that he has a coffin in the house; but whether it is merely for the purpose of sleeping in it, as has been reported, is not clear.—If he have a bed, it is certain that no one is permitted to make it; nor is any person admitted further than the shop-door to clean any thing.

Some time ago, Mr. B. being chosen a collector of the tythes, much against his will, the assessment being £150, £80 for the Minister, and the overplus, if any, for the poor, he having obtained exactly the rate, would proceed no further, and so far succeeded in defending himself at the next vestry, that the matter was heard of no more.

Relative to his dinner, it frequently happens that his hurry prevents him from having any, then he makes shift with a cup of coffee in the afternoon, his only repast for the remainder of the day.—It is also said, that when he does go to market for food, what he buys he puts in his pocket, being such as is ready dressed, or what he can readily dress at home with old coal, which he purchases at the rate of half a bushel a time; and by his frugal manner of using it, can make it go further than any one else.—

This

This too burns without smoke, and probably saves him the expence of a chimney sweeper.—All his fire-places, as well as every other nook in the house, are filled with various goods and boxes.

Among other tales related of his frugal contrivances, it is said, that he once purchased a living goose, for the sake of the wings, to clean his furniture; not, perhaps, with a view to throw away the body; but not chusing to go to market in person, he employed a deputy to buy it for him, to whom he gave three-pence, with a particular charge to get a young one.—As it might be expected, the goose turned out the very reverse; however, Mr. Bentley did not complain while eating it, but tried his strength on its breast-bone; and finding he could not break it, then sought the person to recover the three-pence.—When he sends for any eatables, &c. it is said, he has no objections to his people's saying they are for dirty Dick.—These too, are generally in very small quantities, such as a quarter of a pound of cheese, and half a pound of bacon; the latter, it is said, he does not approve of, if over-fat, as the fat, he thinks, is a loss in his way of cooking.—Small bits of meat, called cuttings, and cracked eggs, if cheap, are with him at all times purchaseable articles, which, with a quantity of small beer from a chandler's shop, is reckoned by him a very comfortable beverage. Yet whatever his fare may be at home, he takes care that his daily expences upon an average, do not exceed eighteen-pence per day; observing, that if he were to follow the examples of some other people, or even his own custom of living as it was formerly, he should run inevitably into a state of bankruptcy, or spend the remainder of his days in prison.—If he is told that other people cannot live as he does, his reply is, "Every one can that please;" and he insists that it is no hardship to him, though in the early part of his life he had many dishes upon his table at once, and servants to attend him.

Having

Having once invited some persons of consequence to supper, for whom he had done some business, they came to appointment, and he being in his shop, instead of asking them to any other part of the house, after cordially welcoming their arrival, requested them to stop there a few minutes. Going out immediately, he was not long before he returned, with a pound of cheese, a loaf, and two pots of porter; with the whole of which, without any ceremony, he immediately decorated his dirty counter, saying, "There, Gentlemen, is as much as I can afford upon the business we have had together." He thought they would have partaken of it just as it was; but with equal politeness, they declined his offer. If any bills are brought to him by bankers' clerks, he always pays them off at hand, and as frequently lectures them for coming without pen and ink.—And it seems he never wishes to leave any one alone in a shop, where gold ear-rings, trinkets, and other valuable articles, lie confusedly scattered about in every direction.—As one proof of this assertion, a traveller from Birmingham, had one time considerable trouble to get Mr. B. to settle for some goods sent him; he saying he knew nothing about them; however, the traveller being sure of the delivery, looked about, and there found the case unpacked.—Mr. B. apologized, and paid the bill without hesitation.

When he is above stairs, he is not to be called down on any occasion, unless a customer comes; then if he is rung for, down he comes, in whatever state he may be in, sometimes half shaved, sometimes with a waistcoat and no shirt, or covered with cobwebs, just as it may occur.—The loss of one customer, he seems to think would ruin him.—His goods, though excellent in quality, often want a little polishing; however, he is ready to make any allowance, and is never wanting in an apology where any is required.

It

It is said, that a gentleman who knew him, once attempting to give him a little advice, with respect to the prejudice he sustained by his dress and appearance; he replied, "It is of no use, Sir, if I wash and clean myself to-day, I shall be as bad to-morrow."

He has also an excuse, though in effect it is none at all, for keeping no domestic animal in his house; "that is, that they make more dirt, and spoil more goods than their profit would amount to."—And as it is supposed he keeps nothing that will attract rats or mice, of course he is not troubled with them.

It seems that Mr. B. is the only person in his family that is governed by these strange propensities.—He has a sister now living near Chelsea College, the widow of a Mr. Lindegreen, formerly a merchant of this city, and who forms a striking contrast to the general habits of her brother. When it was reported some time since that he was dead, she came with her son to the shop in Leadenhall-street, where finding a person placed there instead of her brother, to take orders, &c. she learned, that having been ill, he was at the house of a surgeon in Hounsditch, but was then in a fair way of recovery.—The cause of his absence, was owing to his having scratched his leg with a nail in his shop; and neglecting it, which rendered a considerable expence, and the care of a surgeon absolutely indispensable. Not wishing to go to Hounsditch, on this occasion the lady, it is said, returned to Chelsea. Mr. B.'s love of money is so great, that it is reported he never gives any credit, not even to his nearest relatives, if he can by any means evade it. Having once kept a servant in the house, who robbed him, it is said, he determined never to keep another, excepting to stand at his door; for which it is understood he pays but little—about three-halfpence an hour! An old woman once thus employed, he discharged for staying half an hour longer upon her errand than she had occasion for.—Half an hour, he thought, was too much time to lose. It is also the office of the person who stands

at the door, to assist Mr. B. in keeping the unruly boys and others at a distance, when the master stands at the door, or assists in putting up the shutters. During the cold weather, when he is obliged to be below, to save firing, he stands in a box well lined with straw, to keep his feet warm. His leisure time at night he used to employ in making shelves, and used very frequently to be seen at one of the broken windows up stairs on a Sunday morning, reading a news-paper.—But with all his eccentricities, he is by no means deserving of some ill-natured reports circulated about him; as the character that he has had for gallantry and civility to the ladies, is more than a counterpoise for the failings which he may be charged with; and it is nothing but his continuance in this singular state, which excites so much of the public curiosity, and brings so many people to his shop, either to purchase goods, or to admire the place and its proprietor.

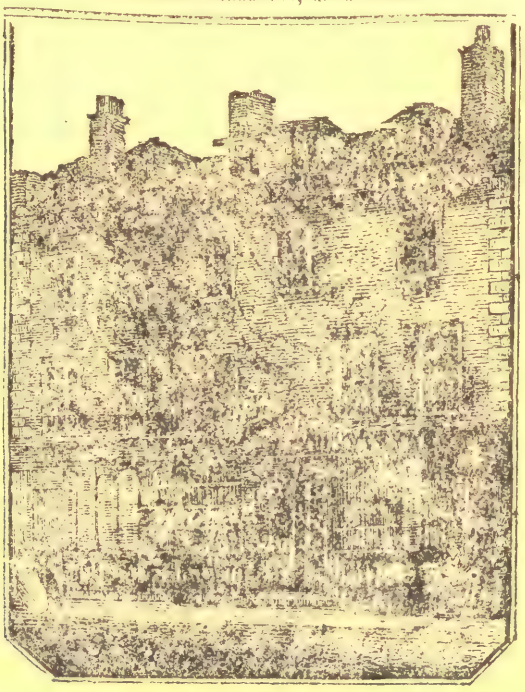
There was also a report that Mr. B. kept his father's carriage in his cellar; but this we can vouch for as the fact, and which has been ascertained since the workmen have been obliged to go into the cellar, viz. that the rumour originated entirely from the circumstance of a wheel being there belonging to a lathe, which is well known to be used in the cutlery and hard-ware business; and which, it seems, could not escape the prying eye of the curious.

Though a notice was some months since nailed upon the premises adjoining the shop, signifying that the old house backwards, with that of Mr. B.'s in the front, were to be let, and application to be made to Mr. Delight the Surveyor; Mr. Bentley never took the least notice, but still continued putting up fresh shelves.—However, as we have noticed at the beginning of these Memoirs, the whole is now undergoing a perfect renewal; though this may not be the case with the tenant, who has not yet exhibited any symptoms of quitting either his habits or his habitation, as it is even thought, that he will risk an ejectment before he leaves it.

Mr.

Mr. Bentley's singularity has, it seems, been the subject both of prose and of verse; a specimen of the latter has appeared in the European Magazine, for January 1801.—Hence, the curiosity of the public at large since that time, bringing so many people upon idle errands to his shop, has created him much trouble, and of course, unless upon business, rendered all access to him very difficult; and those who come merely to ask questions, he very soon discovers, and treats them accordingly."

The Lines alluded to, are as follow:



"Who not has seen (if [illegible] scene [illegible] all)
The [illegible] Aldgate's well-known pump and Leadenhall,
A curious hardware shop, in general full
Of wares from Birmingham and Pontipool?
Begrim'd with dirt, behold its ample front,
Where thirty years collected filth upon't:
See [illegible] bows pendant o'er the door,
While [illegible], ladles, and trumpets, are strew'd around the floor.

" Behold how whistling winds and driving rain,
Gain free admission at each broken pane,
Save where the dingy tenant keeps them out
With urn or tray, knife-case, or dirty clout!
Here snuffers, waiters, patent screws for corks;
There castors, card-racks, cheese-trays, knives and forks!
Here empty cases pil'd in heaps on high;
There packthread, papers, rope, in wild disorder lie.

" O say, thou enemy to soap and towels!
Hast no compassion lurking in thy bowels?
Think what the neighbours suffer by thy whim,
Of keeping self and house in such a trim?
The officers of health should view the scene,
And put thy shop and thee in quarantine.
Consider thou, in summer's ardent heat,
When various means are tried to cool the street,
What must each decent neighbour suffer then
From noxious vapours issuing from thy den.

" When fell Disease, with all her horrid train,
Spreads her dark pinions o'er ill-fated Spain,
That Britain may not witness such a scene,
Behoves us doubly now to keep our dwellings clean.

" Say, if within the street where thou dost dwell,
Each house were kept exactly like thy cell;
O say, thou enemy to brooms and mops!
How long thy neighbours could keep open shops,
If following thee in taste, each wretched elf,
Unshav'd, unwash'd, and squalid like thyself,
Resolv'd to live?---The answer's very plain,
One year would be the utmost of their reign:
Victims to filth, each vot'ry soon would fall,
And one grand jail distemper kill them all.

" Persons there are, who say thou hast been seen
(Some years ago) with hands and face wash'd clean;
And would'st thou quit this most unseemly plan,
Thou art ('tis said) a very comely man:
Of polish'd language, partial to the fair,
Then why not wash thy face, and comb thy matted hair;
Clear from thy house accumulated dirt,
New paint the front, and wear a cleaner shirt."

SINGULAR

SINGULAR CIRCUMSTANCE.—A person who keeps a cook's shop in Point-street, Portsmouth, purchased a couple of ducks, Tuesday, Nov. 15; after taking the insides out, in cutting open one of the gizzards, discovered amongst the gravel, &c. eighty-two small gold beads, as bright as if just purchased of a jeweller; worth about nine shillings as old gold.

CAPTAIN GUYER'S *Account of his Misfortunes at Sea.*

Wilmington, America, December 5, 1795.

As master of the brig Lark, belonging to this port, on the 22d day of October last, I was overset at sea, in lat. 29 N. long. 68 W. being laden with flour, my vessel would not sink, and immediately filling with water, I found it impossible to save her; it was with the utmost difficulty that I saved my boat and oars, and about nine gallons of water. The sea running very high, and night coming on, we were obliged to moor the boat under the lee of the wreck, with all hands in her; it then set in to blow a hard gale from the Southward, with very heavy rains. On the 23d we went on the wreck, and got half a barrel of wet flour and one of the brig's sails, the gale still continuing to blow hard, and all hands in the boat under the lee of the wreck.—On the 25th the gale abated, when we went on the wreck and procured one of the top-gallant yards, with which we made a mast for the boat, and made a temporary sail: at 10 A. M. we left the wreck (her decks being broke up and spars alongside), having on board the boat about two-thirds of half a barrel of wet flour, and seven or eight gallons of water, without a compass or any other instrument, supposing Watlin's island to bear S. W. ½ S. four hundred and fifty miles distant. On the 29th, after suffering greatly with hunger and thirst, and having run about 550 miles in the boat, we fell in with the

the north end of Cat Island. I immediately went on shore, but could find no inhabitants or assistance whatever. At this time our damaged flour and water was all gone.—We then proceeded to the South side of the island, and landed at the house of Mr. Seth Doud, by whom I was kindly received, and treated with the greatest hospitality. On the 4th November Mr. Doud furnished me with plenty of provisions, and a pilot, with whom we proceeded to New Providence, where we arrived the 5th of November, having run 730 miles in a small boat of thirteen feet keel, with seven men, a boy and a dog; and out at sea twelve days without eating a meal's victuals, during which time nature was only supported by a little musty dough. On my arrival at Nassau, I applied to Joseph Eves, Esq. for assistance, who received me with great kindness, and furnished me with money and cloaths for myself and suffering companions. From New Providence we sailed on the 20th of November, in the sloop Planter, Captain Hess, for Philadelphia, and landed at Newcastle on Wednesday morning the 2d of December. CAROLUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM.

"SIR,—As your *Museum* is a receptacle for Remarkable Characters, the following will, I presume, be entitled to a place in your next Number; which request, by complying with, will induce me to transmit you others more remarkable than these. Your occasional Correspondent,

Nottingham, Nov. 18th, 1803. D. B. L."

NICHOLAS RICHMOND—*A merciless Usurer,*

DIED in Leicester about the year 1773; and whose life being handed down to posterity, will serve no other purpose, than for mankind to detest those actions which have made his memory infamous.

He was born a Quaker, but his life was a perfect contrast to the humanity of those apparent happy people.—Although

Although he lived amidst scenes of the most complicated wretchedness, yet he was an utter stranger to the soft feelings of compassion. If he had no vices that mark the debauchee, the intemperate and profane, yet in a round of threescore years, not the exercise of one social duty is to be found.

His coffers were filled from the scanty pittance of the miserable, subject to his influence through want. When the needy parent had stripped the unoffending babe, to procure it sustenance, the pledge was unfeelingly by him received, while the tender innocent lay folded in its mother's arms in rags.

He owned a certain district of dwellings, among which he lived, peopled by the most indigent, over whom he exercised the most unlimited oppressions; sensible that their necessities made him (to use the language of Scripture,) *their miserable comforter!*

A poor woman, one of his tenants, with a numerous family, who owed him a few weeks' rent, (for he collected his rents weekly,) he ejected in this manner:—Knocking at her door, he says to the good woman, "I want to speak to thee;—go into the entry and take all thy children with thee, and I will go to thee." The poor woman, not suspecting his intention, obliged his request, which was no sooner done, than he secured the door, seized her goods, and never suffered her to enter therein any more.

To particularize the steps he took to amass wealth, would only irritate; suffice it to say, that his penuriousness prompted him to sacrifice the precious gifts of heaven, to his voluptuous thirst for gain. Out of the very few times which he dared to lay out three farthings for half-a-pint of ale, he had once the misfortune to let his mug fall, and spill his drink: the trifling disaster brought from him this harsh sentence—"Guts! guts! ye must suffer for this."

The food he took was of the meanest sort, he invariably weighed before he allowed the pressing calls of nature its necessities.

necessities. Potatoes were his chief support, four ounces of which were a stipulated meal.

His figure was the picture of want, garbed like a pitiable mendicant—lean as the watery aliment could make him; his languid countenance under a large hat, seemed absorbed in thought. In the midst of his vain pursuits, the hand of death seized and forced him from his *god of riches—to tremble at the presence of* OMNIPOTENCE.

ERUPTION OF A VOLCANO; *called the* CHIMNEY *of* HELL.

PROFESSOR PALLAS observes, that his curiosity was much excited by a mountain in Southern Russia, which the Cossacks call Kuko Obo, or the Chimney of Hell, on account of vast columns of fire and smoke, which they have observed to issue from it at different periods. It is situated in the middle of the large and sharp tongue of land, which forms the interior Gulf of Taman; and from a minute examination of the different stratifications, the Professor was induced to suppose that the whole of the mountain, which was of a considerable extent, had its origin from more ancient eruptions.

In March 1794, this hillock exhibited the following extraordinary events:—"At first (says the author) a roaring noise was heard in the air, which was followed by a violent gust of wind that lasted only a minute; next, a noise was heard similar to thunder, which came from the hillock, and immediately afterwards there issued from the middle of its summit a column of thick and black smoke: in the space of a minute there arose another of violent fire, which at a distance appeared to be 50 feet in height and 30 in circumference. This flame lasted from half past eight till ten minutes before ten, when an express, who had been sent to the part at the time that the noise, fire and smoke seemed to decrease, returned, and reported that an aperture had been formed on the hillock, the size of which could not be

be ascertained, because the successive eruptions, accompanied by flame and smoke, threw out a hot mud, which spread in every direction, and rendered an approach impracticable. The eruption was neither preceded nor followed by any attack of an earthquake.

" According to the different accounts of ocular witnesses, who observed this phenomenon, both at Taman and Yenikale, and visited the mountain after its eruption, the explosion resembled the rumbling of thunder, and the report did not last longer than that of a thunder-clap. A noise and hissing was also heard in the air at Yenikale, both before and after the explosion. At the instant of the report, there issued a white vapour, which was followed by a smoke as black as soot, and this was penetrated by a column of fire, with flames of a bright red and pale yellow colour, in the form of an expanded sheaf; and which, notwithstanding a very strong wind, which blew at the time, rose to a perpendicular height twice as great as that of a mountain. This column of fire disappeared in twenty-five minutes, but the black smoke lasted four or five hours, and sent forth thick and black clouds over both sides. It had, however, entirely disappeared by the following day.

" At the time of the first explosion, the mountain propelled with violence into the air several portions of mud, and threw out quantities of a similar substance, in every direction around it, to the distance of at least a verst. The great mass of mud made its way from the gulf, by displacing a portion of vegetable earth, to the extent of a fathom, which was at that time frozen: it ran at first with rapidity, but afterwards slower, covering all parts of the mountain, without having any sensible degree of heat, according to the report of many respectable persons, who came on horseback to the place a few hours after the eruption; yet the mud then continued to throw out a strong smoke through a very cold air. Some Cossacks, however, who

had been sent there, made a contrary report, and insisted that the mud was hot at the time of its efflux. A continual hissing and boiling were heard in the mountain till night; and till the third day, the mud was sometimes thrown out to the height of ten or twelve feet. At a subsequent period the mountain made a cracking noise, and again began to throw out mud in the air, but without exhibiting an appearance of fire, even during the night."

The Professor analysed the contents of the eruption, and found amongst them many crystals of pyrites, marly schistus, white and friable earth, grey calcareous stone, white chalk, brown iron ore, clay-stone, &c. &c.; many of these substances probably introduced by the sea-water which rushed into the subterraneous space, and which (water) mixing with the ashes of the burned strata, occasioned the showers of mud.

Further Particulars of the GREAT FIRE *of* LONDON.

Mr. EDITOR,

In one of your former Numbers, I was very much pleased in seeing the variety of particulars which you had collected concerning the Great Fire of 1666.—One of the principal causes of its rapid progress, I presume, did not then strike you, and that was the very early destruction of the Water Works upon London Bridge, in consequence of its proximity to Pudding-lane, where the fire first broke out at a Baker's, in the night between Saturday and Sunday. This fact, though Stow omits it, is mentioned by other writers. The circumstance also of Bishop Braybrook's body being found in St. Paul's Cathedral, just after the fire, I think you have also omitted.—He had been Bishop of London and Lord Chancellor of England upwards of 200 years before; and saith my author, his body, as many do inform me, when taken up after the fire, did retain much of its manly

manly shape, and most of its external parts, to the amazement of such as beheld it, and did withal believe it to be the body of the said Bishop. Just before this fire happened, I further learn, that a number of shops and small houses built up against St. Paul's, probably during the twenty years civil war, were condemned to be removed as nuisances to the Cathedral; but this the great fire prevented, by destroying the whole. You mentioned the vast number of books that were destroyed, particularly those that were deposited for safety in St. Paul's Cathedral:—A cotemporary writer, and eye-witness of this great calamity, estimates the number of Bibles only at 40,000. Many goods of all sorts were lost in other churches, where the people at first depositing them for safety, had the final mortification of seeing them and the building destroyed together, and nothing but the stone walls of these edifices remaining. It was also observed during this fatal calamity, that though the wind generally blew to one point, the fire ran the contrary way with equal rapidity; and though blowing up houses with gunpowder, was the best remedy to stop the progress of the flames, it was not thought of by any person for some days. In fact, the consternation was too great for forethought, and the difficulty of removing goods was considerably heightened by the enormous prices required by the country carters and others; these being upon an average three or four pounds a load.—Boats, barges, &c. on the Thames, were also fully employed; and such numbers of people fled over to the Borough, that for some time there was scarcely a shed, barn, or stable, that did not contain some of the trading citizens, happy in thus taking refuge from the devouring element.

Characteristics of a BRITISH SAILOR, *exhibited in* DANIEL BRYAN, *an old Seaman, now in Greenwich Hospital.*

SOME of the last services of this aged veteran, were performed with Sir Sydney Smith, against the French in

Egypt; when at Acre, old Dan was captain of the fore-top, who had been turned over from the Blanche into Sir Sydney Smith's ship Le Tigre. During the siege of Acre, this hardy veteran made repeated applications to be employed on shore; but, being an elderly man, and rather deaf, his request was not acceded to. At the first storming of the breach by the French, among the multitude of slain, fell one of the generals of that nation. The Turks, in triumph, struck off the head of this unfortunate officer, and after inhumanly mangling the body with their sabres, left it, naked, a prey to the dogs. Precluded from the rites of sepulture, it in a few days became putrescent; a shocking spectacle! a dreadful memento of the horrors of war, the fragility of human nature, and the vanity of all sublunary ambition, hopes, and expectations. Thus exposed, when any of the sailors who had been on shore returned to the ship, inquiries were instantly made respecting the state of the deceased general. Dan frequently asked his messmates, why they had not buried him?—But the only reply was, "Go and do it yourself." Dan swore he would; observing, that he had himself been taken prisoner by the French, who always gave their enemies a decent burial, not like those —— Turks, leaving them to rot above-board. In the morning, having at length obtained leave to go and see the town, he dressed himself as though for an excursion of pleasure, and went ashore with the surgeon in the jolly-boat. About an hour or two after, while the surgeon was dressing the wounded Turks in the hospital, in came honest Dan, who, in his rough, good-natured manner, exclaimed, "I have been burying the general, Sir, and now I am come to see the sick!" Not particularly attending to the tar's salute, but fearful of his catching the plague, the surgeon immediately ordered him out. Returning on board, the coxswain enquired of the surgeon if he had seen old Dan? "Yes, he has been burying the French general." It was then that Dan's words

in

in the hospital first occurred. The boat's crew who witnessed the generous action, an action truly worthy of a British sailor, in whose character are ever blended the nobler and milder virtues, thus related its circumstances:

The old man procured a pick-axe, a shovel, and a rope, and insisted on being let down out of a port-hole, close to the breach. Some of his more juvenile companions offered to attend him: "No;" he replied, "you are too young to be shot yet; as for me, I am old and deaf, and my loss would be no great matter." Persisting in his adventure, in the midst of the firing, Dan was slung and lowered down with his implements of action on his shoulder.—His first difficulty, not a very trivial one, was to drive away the dogs.—The French now levelled their pieces—they were on the instant of firing at the hero!—It was an interesting moment! but an officer perceiving the friendly intentions of the sailor, was seen to throw himself across the file. Instantaneously the din of arms, the military thunder ceased; a dead, a solemn silence prevailed, and the worthy fellow consigned the corpse to its parent earth.—He covered it with mould and stones, placing a large stone at its head, and another at its feet.—But Dan's task was not yet completed.—The unostentatious grave was formed, but no inscription recorded the fate or character of its possessor.—Dan, with the peculiar air of a British sailor, took a piece of chalk from his pocket, and attempted to write,—"*Here you lie, old Crop!*" He was then with his pick-axe and shovel hoisted into the town, and the hostile firing immediately recommenced.

A few days afterwards, Sir Sidney, having been informed of the circumstance, ordered Dan to be called into the cabin. "Well, Dan, I hear you have buried the French general?" "Yes, your honour." "Had you any body with you?" "Yes, your honour." "Why, Mr. —— says you had not?" "But I had, your honour; God

God Almighty was with me." "A very good assistant, indeed:—give old Dan a glass of grog." "Thank your honour!" Dan drank his grog, and left the cabin highly gratified. He is now, as we observed before, laid up (as a seaman might say) in Greenwich tier; there to reap the benefit of his long and faithful services.

The HISTORY *of* REMARKABLE EARTHQUAKES *in England, and elsewhere.*

(Continued from Page 344.)

SUNDAY, March 18, 1749--50.—Between five and six in the evening, the inhabitants of Cowes, in the Isle of Wight, were surprised with a strange rumbling noise in the air, which was immediately followed by a sudden shock of an earthquake; and which was sensibly felt all over the island, and likewise at Portsmouth and Gosport; but not so violently at the latter place as at the former.

Let us now turn our eyes to the dreadful scenes of desolation, which have overspread Sicily, Jamaica, Lima, and Calao.

Sicily has suffered many terrible earthquakes, but none more dreadful than that on the 10th of January 1692—3, which not only shook the whole island, but even Naples and Malta. It was not preceded by any darkness in the air, but by an agreeable, a serene, and warm season, which was the more observable, on account of its being unusual at that time of the year. The preceding evening there was a great light observed in the air, which was taken for the reflection of a fire made by the country people, and which seemed to keep at the same distance, though the spectators went directly towards it; whilst they were observing this appearance, the earthquake began, upon which the light instantly vanished, and the waves of the sea, which before the shock, beat gently on the shore, began

began now to make a dreadful noise. The next day the air was overshadowed with darkness, and tinged with a deep yellow, while the darkened sun struck the minds of the spectators with the melancholy presage of an earthquake, more terrible than that which happened the night before; and indeed their fears were too well founded.—The earth during four minutes beat and heaved with a regular motion, like that of a pulse, but so violent, that it was impossible for any body to keep their feet on the agitated earth; nay, those who lay on the ground, were tossed from side to side, as on a rolling billow, and walls were thrown several paces from their foundations. In open places the sea sunk considerably, and in the same proportion in ports and inclosed bays. In several places the earth opened in very long clefts, some an hand's breadth, others half a palm, and others like great gulfs; from these openings in the vallies, there issued such a quantity of water as overflowed a great space of ground, which to those that were near it, had a strong sulphureous smell.—The mischief it did is amazing; almost all the buildings in the country were thrown down.—Fifty-four cities and towns, besides an incredible number of villages, were either destroyed or greatly damaged. We shall only instance the fate of Catania, one of the most ancient and flourishing cities in the kingdom, a university, and the residence of several monarchs. This once famous city, to use the words of an author of credit, had the greatest share in the tragedy. Father Anthony Serrovita, being on his way thither, and at the distance of a few miles, saw a cloud as black as night hovering over it, while from the mouth of Montgibello, arose great spires of flame, which spread all around. The sea suddenly began to roar and rise in billows, and there was a clap, as if all the artillery in the world had been discharged.—The birds flew about astonished, the cattle in the fields ran up and down, as it were,

were, wild with the affright, and roaring and bellowing as if affected with the terrors of some dreadful catastrophe. The horse on which Father Serrovita rode, and the horses of those who accompanied him, stepped short, trembling; so that they were forced to alight.—They were no sooner on their feet, than they were lifted up above two palms, when casting his eyes towards Catania, he with amazement saw nothing but a thick cloud of dust in the air:—This was the scene of their calamity, for of the magnificent Catania, there is not the least foot-step to be seen. We are assured by Bonajutus, that out of eighteen thousand nine hundred and fourteen inhabitants, eighteen thousand perished. And the same author finds, from a computation of the inhabitants before and after the earthquake, that there perished in the several cities and towns, near sixty thousand, out of two hundred fifty-four thousand nine hundred.

Particular Account of the METEOR *which appeared on the Evening of Sunday, the 13th inst.*

THIS phenomenon occurred about 40 min. after eight o'clock, and attracted the notice of all those who happened to be out at the time, for a considerable distance round the metropolis. A gentleman coming up from Lea-bridge towards Clapton turnpike, saw it very distinctly; it had an oval form, and was followed by sparks, which gave it somewhat the appearance of having a tail. It emitted a very vivid white light. The effect of the light was indeed so strong, that any small object on the road could be readily perceived. It moved with great velocity in a N. W. direction, and disappeared by entering a thick black cloud; and a few seconds after, a most awful rumbling noise, like distant thunder, or a heavy discharge of artillery, was heard, and continued a considerable time.

It

It was seen also in Whitechapel, Knightsbridge, Hammersmith, and many miles round the metropolis, the whole of which was illuminated by it. At the time of its appearance, the congregation were coming out of the Broadway Chapel, Westminster, and many of them, struck with fear, ran in again. The passengers in Leicester Fields were particularly affected by it, and several females were so much alarmed that they screamed out.

Another account says; the phenomena which happened on Sunday evening last, is not calculated to excite that terror and dread, which in the dark ages of superstition, designing men are wont to raise. A comparison of well authenticated facts authorise a conclusion that similar events are by no means uncommon; but by happening in the daytime, or after the inhabitants have in general retired to rest, they are observed but by few; and the relation, if made, disregarded; and it is perhaps as much owing to the time of the evening in which this meteor appeared, as to its magnitude and brilliancy, that it has excited so much curiosity. From the circumstances of its appearance at Dover, Cranbrook, Chelmsford, Lewes, Brighthelmstone, and Southampton, compared with its appearance in London, it seems that the body which occasioned this light was moving with incredible swiftness at a vast height above the earth, in a direction nearly W. or S. W. and in a line passing to the Southward of the coast of Essex. Accordingly we expect in due course of time, to hear that it was seen in France, and probably further, in a South-West direction, and in the contrary direction across England, Wales, and perhaps Ireland. It was observed near the Horse Guards, in Westminster, to pass about 28 or 30 degrees to the Southward of the Zenith, and about 28 or 29 minutes after the hour of eight by that clock, which is well and constantly regulated to true or near time; the whole time which the light occasioned by the meteor lasted, was not estimated to exceed

five or six seconds. From the great height at which this meteor was moving, and its great velocity, we have but little expectation of hearing of its fall, or of any of those masses of iron and stony matters which have, in so many well authenticated instances, fallen from the atmosphere, and buried themselves in the earth, or the bursting or extinction of many similar meteors. Should, however, the noise of the fall of any such masses be heard, or the holes be discovered in any part, we hope that the curious will not fail to thoroughly investigate the facts, for the purpose of increasing our knowledge on this very intricate and curious subject.

The following accounts are from the country papers :— A letter from Southampton of the 14th, says,—" Yesterday evening between 8 and 9 o'clock, the inhabitants of this town were much surprised at a grand and unusual appearance of light in the element, about sixty degrees above the horizon, in the W. S. W. quarter, which illlumined the buildings, &c. in its passage upon the opposite point of the compass. It was not visible more than eighteen or twenty seconds ; the night was fine, the hemisphere clear and starry, with a moderate breeze from the westward ; the streets were in general pretty much crowded ; the evening service at the different churches, &c. having concluded but a short time before this passing meteor was discovered."

" Between eight and nine o'clock Sunday night, a ball of fire appeared over Lewes, which for several seconds illumined the hemisphere in a very extraordinary manner. A person who was returning from Brighton, on the roof of our stage coach, asserts, the light was so strong, that it enabled him to see distinctly, not only the cattle and sheep in the distant meadows, but also the shipping at sea. Its bursting was sensibly felt at several houses, which we are told it actually shook, and so alarmed their inhabitants,

from any large town, it was night before the few people who saw the accident, could begin to dig for him:—this they then continued doing the whole of the next day and night; and when from extreme fatigue, and hearing nothing of the poor man, they were upon the point of leaving off, they had the good fortune to discover that he was alive, by hearing his moans, and to release him from so dreadful a situation, after he had been there thirty-six hours, with little more damage than a violent contusion on one arm and one leg, and two of his ribs much bruised. He gave an account that he could all the while, very distinctly hear the persons speak, who were digging for him, though thirty or forty feet below them:—and when the people were absolutely on the point of giving up the attempt to liberate him, they had the good fortune, for the first time, to hear his voice, he being then only three feet below the ground they had already dug up. When discovered, he was kneeling on one knee, with one arm lifted up, and both his eyes, as it were, instinctively closed.

TO THE EDITOR.

"Sir,—As the generality of your Readers are probably unacquainted with the scientific peregrinations in South America, in which Mr. Von Humboldt, one of the German Literati of distinguished eminence, and Director-General of Mines in the Prussian service, has been engaged since the year 1801; the following particulars extracted from a letter of that learned pedestrian to his brother, Royal Prussian Minister at Rome, will not, I trust, be deemed unworthy of a place in your interesting and instructive Miscellany."

Mr. Von Humboldt's *Scientific Researches in South America.*

Until the month of September 1801, Mr. Von Humboldt remained with Bonpland, his travelling companion, at S. Fe de Bogotar, near the equator, on the easternmost chain of mountains, formed there by the Andes. In order

der to approach the coast of the South Sea on the other side of the equator, they were obliged to traverse the highest arm of that Cordillera. They travelled on foot over the snowy regions of Quiridu, and passed seventeen days in these deserts, where they were overtaken by such tremendous falls of rain, that their boots, completely putrified, dropped from their legs, and they entered Cartago barefoot and bloodshot. From thence they proceeded to Popayan, along the Platina mines, in the mountains of Choka. They spent the month of November at Popayan, and visited the volcano Purace, which throws out sulphur-water with a dreadful noise. The most difficult road lay between that town and Pasto, along the steepest precipices, and a tremendous volcano. They reached Pasto about the end of the year, and after having contended with new difficulties, experienced the shock of an earthquake, and had a narrow escape from being drowned; they arrived at Quito, a handsome and luxurious town, on the 6th of January 1802.

In that place they continued upwards of six months, and made excursions from thence to the memorable volcanoes and stupendous mountains of the province. Our bold and intrepid traveller saw more, and climbed higher than any European had ever done before him; so high that the natives would not follow him, and that from the extreme rarefaction of the air, the blood burst forth from his lips, gums, and eyes. He examined the volcanoes, measured the height of the mountains, and made experiments with the air; he ascended the burning mountains of Pichincha, Antisana, and Kotopoxi, and lastly, the Chimbozaco, the highest mountain colossus of our globe.—The observations made by Bouguer and Condamine, he has partly confirmed and partly rectified, adding such remarks as were suggested by changes, which have taken place since their departure from that country. The dreadful earthquake

earthquake which happened on the 4th of February 1797, shook the whole province of Quito, destroyed 40,000 human beings in one moment, and hurled the summits of the highest mountains down into the vallies. Since that time the subterraneous fire never ceases, shocks of earthquakes are constantly felt, volcanoes, extinguished for many years, smoke without intermission. Yet unmindful of the surrounding dangers, the inhabitants of Quito indulge in enjoyments, as refined, luxurious, and extravagant, as any which London or Paris can offer, and with a bent for pleasures, which is no where else observable in the same degree. The earthquake we have just mentioned, has also had a very prejudicial influence over the temperature of the air, and rendered it severely cold. An eternal frost reigns on the snow-clad ridges of the highest mountains, where vegetation can be only traced in some small species of moss, and where no living being meets the traveller's eye, while on the less elevated mountains, the giant of the winged tribes, the condor, at times soars over his head.

At Riobamba, Mr. Von Humboldt met with some highly valuable manuscripts relative to the Ancient History of the Nations, inhabiting the part of South America, which hitherto has been entirely unknown. It is written by one of the ancient Yncas, in a language now dead, and translated into Spanish by one of his successors. The King of Lincan shewed this manuscript to our traveller, who extracted the most memorable passages. Upon the whole, Mr. Von Humboldt forms a more favourable judgment on the knowledge of the Indians, on the ancient state of their sciences and arts, and on the beauty and richness of their idioms, than other travellers have done, who did not reside so long in the country as himself. He afterwards visited the sulphur-mountain at Tiscan, the ruins of the palaces of the ancient Yncas, proceeded to the city of Cuenca, and from thence through the province of Jaen along the banks of the Amazon River to Lima.

DUTCH

DUTCH REVENGE, AND REMARKABLE CONTRIVANCE.

A SHORT time previous to the present war, when the trade was carried on between the port of London and Holland, a very singular instance of Dutch revenge occurred in the way of traffic, which became a long while the subject of conversation among foreign captains, seamen, and others concerned with shipping in the river Thames. Mr. Stephen Beck, a respectable merchant at Wapping, frequently sent goods to Rotterdam, by one Brink, the skipper of a Dutch sloop. Jacob Henriques, another trader, observing the advantage gained by his countryman from the above merchant's employ, formed a design to supplant the latter, and obtain the conveyance of the goods himself. Influenced by such an intention, he one day found means to persuade the merchant's man that Brink's vessel had left the river, and prevailed upon him to ship several hampers, &c. on board the craft he commanded, with which he got under way. Brink, in the mean time, waited as usual for his freight, and finding it did not arrive, was obliged to go to sea without it; but on his next return to London, waited on Mr. Beck, to know how he came to be deprived of the goods he had so long been accustomed to take on board. He then learned the trick Henriques had played him; and the inflamed skipper, after reprobating the conduct of his countryman in the most severe terms, vowed to be quickly revenged. A Dutchman seldom fails to remember an injury, and where it's interest is concerned, never rests until he receives tenfold satisfaction. In the present instance, it was not long before an opportunity offered to gratify this ruling propensity. He knew Henriques had been for some time carrying on an illegal trade with English guineas, a great number of which he constantly secreted in his cabin, placed in the barrels of three blunderbusses, constructed in so curious a manner, that when the vessel was searched, previous to her sailing, no traces of the deception were ever discovered. The profits of Exchange between Holland and

and England, were frequently very considerable. Brink, possessed of this secret, conceived himself at liberty to retaliate the attempt made to his prejudice, accordingly communicated the whole transaction to the Port-Master at Gravesend, who proceeded to take the necessary steps to seize the money, and when Henriques was going to sea, a shot was fired to bring him to; the latter having, however, a fair wind, the gun was disregarded, the vessel passed without backing her top-sail, and dropped down to the Hope, where the Port-Master followed her, went along side in his barge, entered the cabin, and immediately took down the blunderbusses, loaded with 687 new guineas, which he conveyed on shore. Henriques, after the seizure, applied in vain to have part of it restored; the greatest favour he obtained, being permitted to put to sea with his vessel, which was liable to be detained. On arriving at Rotterdam, a short time after, the unfortunate Henriques met Brink on the Exchange, to whom he related the circumstances of his loss, uttering at the same time the most bitter execrations against the unknown informer. The latter, with a sneer of contempt, derided the complaint, and after upbraiding him for his former unfair dealings, declared he was the man who had given information of the concealed gold to the Port Master. The enraged Henriques, on hearing such a declaration, immediately pulled out his knife; Brink did the same, and by consent attacked each other after the Dutch manner, until part of Brink's nose suffered in the conflict, and his adversary was much scarified; the standers-by then parted the combatants, inflamed with more than mortal fury. The dreadful marks exhibited in their faces recorded the affray, and they never after appeared at Wapping or Billingsgate, but the laugh became general. The story was repeated frequently by Brink himself, who felt much satisfaction at the recital.

THE END OF VOL. I.

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